



## As clock ticks, new hurdle emerges in border security talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bargainers clashed Sunday over whether to limit the number of migrants authorities can detain, tossing a new hurdle before negotiators hoping to strike a border security compromise for Congress to pass this coming week. The White House wouldn't rule out a renewed partial government shutdown if an agreement isn't reached. With the Friday deadline approaching, the two sides remained separated by hundreds of millions of dollars over how much to spend to construct President Donald Trump's prom-

ised border wall. But rising to the fore was a related dispute over curbing Customs and Immigration Enforcement, or ICE, the federal agency that Republicans see as an emblem of tough immigration policies and Democrats accuse of often going too far. Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, in appearances on NBC's "Meet the Press" and "Fox News Sunday," said "you absolutely cannot" eliminate the possibility of another shutdown if a deal is not reached over the wall and other border matters.

Continued on Page 4



In this July 11, 2018, file photo Mick Mulvaney, acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), and Director of the Office of Management, listens during a news conference at the Department of Justice in Washington.

Associated Press



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## Leader of new climate panel talks of need for 'bold action'

By **MATTHEW DALY**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It does not yet have office space, staff or even Republican members, but Florida Rep. Kathy Castor is confident that a special House committee on climate change will play a leading role on one of the most daunting challenges facing the planet. Castor, who chairs the new panel, says those early obstacles can be overcome as lawmakers move to reduce carbon pollution and create clean-energy jobs. "The Democratic caucus is unified under the belief we have to take bold action on the climate crisis," Castor said in an interview.



In this April 1, 2014 file photo, Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., talks during a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

While that can take many forms, the transition to renewable energy such as wind and solar power is "job one," she said. Castor, who's in her seventh

term representing the Tampa Bay area, said Congress has a "moral obligation" to protect future generations from the costly effects of climate change, including more severe hurricanes, a longer wildfire season and a dangerous sea-level rise. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi named Castor to lead the panel in December, saying she brings experience, energy and urgency to what Pelosi called "the existential threat of the climate crisis" facing the United States and the world.

The climate panel is similar to one Pelosi created when Democrats last controlled the House from 2007 to 2010. The panel was eliminated when Republicans took the majority in 2011.

While the previous panel played a key role in House approval of a landmark 2009 bill to address global warming, Castor said the new panel is likely to focus on a variety of actions rather than a single piece of legislation.

She and the eight other Democrats named to the panel "are ready to stand up to corporate polluters and special interests" as they press for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward a clean-energy economy, Castor said.

"Climate deniers, fossil fuel companies and other special interests have had an outsized influence" in Congress in recent years, she said, promising to "stand up" to those forces to protect the environment and create green jobs.

The climate panel is separate from an effort by Democrats to launch a Green New Deal to transform the U.S. economy and create thousands of jobs in renew-

able energy.

Castor dismissed the idea that the Green New Deal — put forth by freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and veteran Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts — will conflict with the climate panel.

"My job and the committee's job is to take the general concepts (of the Green New Deal) and turn them into a real policy framework and legislative language and eventually law," she said.

Pelosi agreed, saying in a statement that the climate panel will "spearhead Democrats' work to develop innovative, effective solutions to prevent and reverse the climate crisis."

Pelosi invited Ocasio-Cortez, a social media star and the best-known member of the large class of freshman Democrats, to join the climate panel, but she declined, saying she wants to focus on the Green New Deal and other committee assignments.

Three freshmen — Sean Casten of Illinois, Mike Levin of California and Joe Neguse of Colorado — serve on the panel, along with veteran lawmakers such as Rep. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico, the fourth-ranking House Democrat, and Californians Julia Brownley and Jared Huffman, both close Pelosi allies.

"We need their passion and energy, and we need support from all corners all across the country," Castor said of the freshmen members. "It's all hands on deck right now." Republicans have not named anyone to the climate committee, but six GOP members are expected to join the panel this month. □





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## Possible impeachment could further upend Virginia politics

By ALAN SUDERMAN

Associated Press

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — Virginia lawmakers on Monday will reluctantly face the unprecedented prospect of impeaching the state's second most powerful leader as they struggle to address revelations of past racist behavior and allegations of sexual assault roiling its highest levels of office.

At least one lawmaker said he will try to pursue impeachment of Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax after two women accused Fairfax of sexual assault in the 2000s, a move that experts believe would be a first in Virginia. Fairfax has vehemently denied the claims and called for authorities, including the FBI, to investigate.

There's little sign of broad appetite for impeachment, with lawmakers set to finish this year's session by the month's end. But the Legislature is swirling with questions about lines of succession and the political fallout for Democrats should the governor, lieutenant governor or attorney general leave office, willingly or not. Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring, both Democrats, are embroiled in their own scandal after acknowledging they wore blackface in the 1980s.

Northam, a pediatric neurologist, said Sunday that he considered resigning but that he's "not going anywhere" because the state "needs someone that can heal" it.

Northam said on CBS' "Face

the Nation" that it's been a difficult week since a racist photo in his 1984 medical school yearbook surfaced, showing a person wearing blackface next to another person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe. Northam initially said he was in the photo, then denied it the next day, while acknowledging that he did wear blackface to a dance party that same year.

"Virginia needs someone that can heal. There's no better person to do that than a doctor," Northam said. "Virginia also needs someone who is strong, who has empathy, who has courage and who has a moral compass. And that's why I'm not going anywhere."

The scandals have become a full-blown crisis for Virginia Democrats. Although the party has taken an almost zero-tolerance approach to sexual misconduct in the #MeToo era, a housecleaning in Virginia could be costly: If all three Democrats resigned, Republican state House Speaker Kirk Cox would become governor.

Political considerations will be key to what comes next. Virginia is among a handful of states electing lawmakers this year, and Democrats had hoped to flip the Republican-controlled General Assembly.

Democratic Del. Patrick Hope said he wants to introduce articles of impeachment Monday against Fairfax, who is black. Meredith Watson and Vanessa Tyson have accused him of sexual assault and offered

to testify at any impeachment hearing.


The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault, but both women have come forward voluntarily.

Watson alleges Fairfax raped her while they were students at Duke University in 2000, her attorney said in a statement. Tyson, a California college professor, accused Fairfax of forcing her to perform oral sex on him at a Boston hotel in 2004. □



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam talks during an interview at the Governor's Mansion, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press



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From left, Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ga., and Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the top Republican on the bipartisan group bargainers working to craft a border security compromise in hope of avoiding another government shut-down, speak with reporters after a briefing with officials about the US-Mexico border, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019. Shelby is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Associated Press

#### BORDER SECURITY Continued from Front

The White House had asked for \$5.7 billion, a figure rejected by the Democratic-controlled House of

Representatives, and the mood among bargainers has soured, according to people familiar with the negotiations not authorized to speak publicly about pri-

vate talks.

"You cannot take a shut-down off the table, and you cannot take \$5.7 (billion) off the table," Mulvaney told NBC, "but if you end up someplace in the middle, yeah, then what you probably see is the president say, 'Yeah, OK, and I'll go find the money someplace else.'"

A congressional deal seemed to stall even after Mulvaney convened a bipartisan group of lawmakers at Camp David, the presidential retreat in northern Maryland. While the two sides seemed close to clinching a deal late last week, significant gaps remain and momentum appears to have slowed. Though congressional Democratic aides asserted that the dispute had caused the talks to break off, it was initially unclear how damaging the rift

was. Both sides are eager to resolve the long-running battle and avert a fresh closure of dozens of federal agencies that would begin next weekend if Congress doesn't act by Friday.

"I think talks are stalled right now," Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said Sunday on "Fox News Sunday." "I'm not confident we're going to get there."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who appeared on the same program, agreed: "We are not to the point where we can announce a deal."

But Mulvaney did signal that the White House would prefer not to have a repeat of the last shutdown, which stretched more than a month, left more than 800,000 government workers without paychecks, forced a postponement of the State of the Union address and sent Trump's poll numbers tumbling. As support in his own party began to splinter, Trump surrendered after the shutdown hit 35 days without getting money for the wall.

This time, Mulvaney signaled that the White House may be willing to take whatever congressional money comes — even if less than Trump's goal — and then supplement that with other government funds.

"The president is going to build the wall. That's our attitude at this point," Mulvaney said on Fox. "We'll take as much money as you can give us, and we'll go find the money somewhere else, legally, and build that wall on the southern border, with or without Congress."

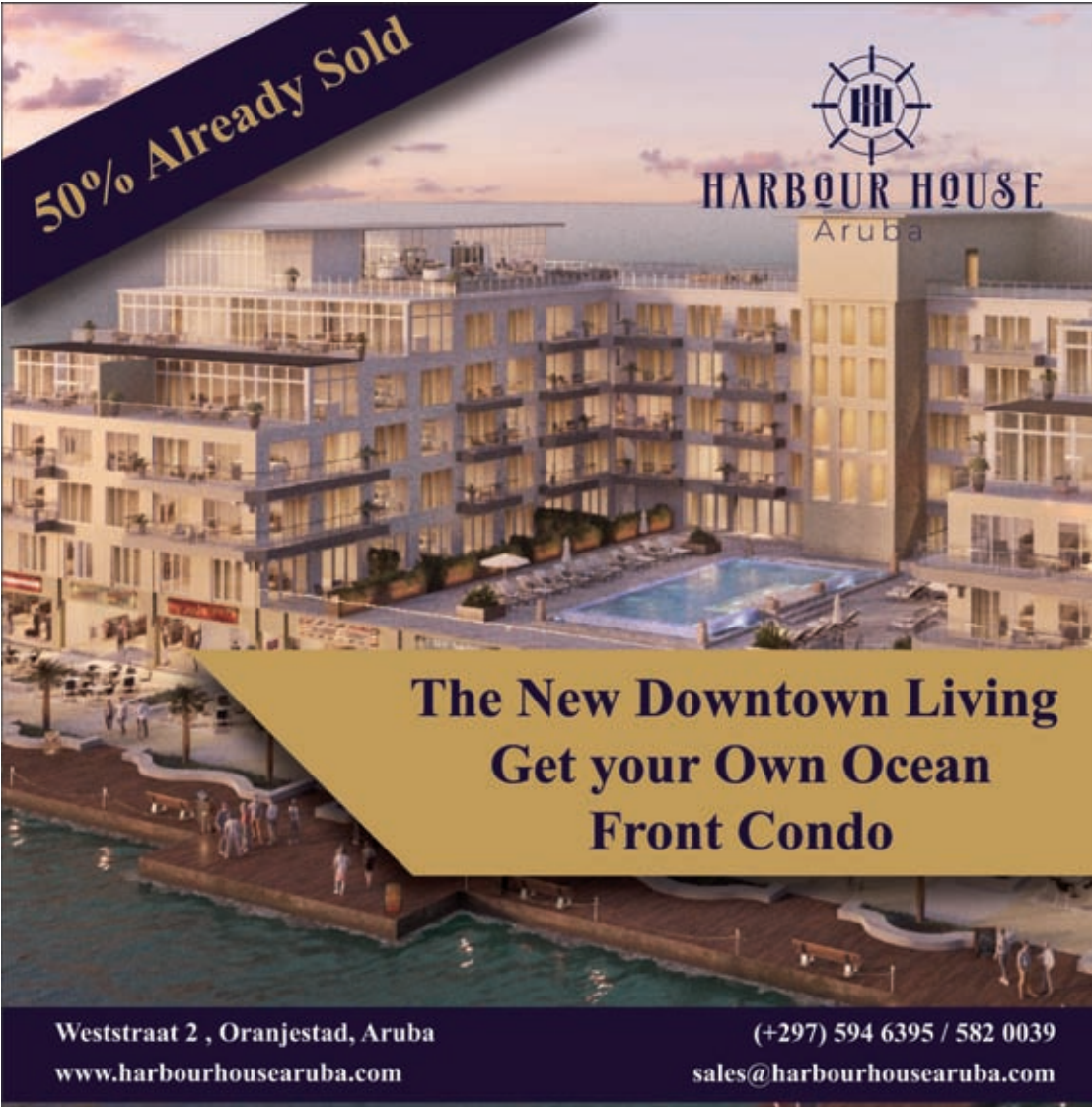
The president's supporters have suggested that Trump could use executive powers to divert money from the federal budget for wall construction, though it was unclear if he would face challenges in Congress or the courts. One provision

of the law lets the Defense Department provide support for counterdrug activities. But declaring a national emergency remained an option, Mulvaney said, even though many in the administration have cooled on the prospect. A number of powerful Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., have also warned against the move, believing it usurps power from Congress and could set a precedent for a future Democratic president to declare an emergency for a liberal political cause. The fight over ICE detentions goes to the core of each party's view on immigration.


Republicans favor tough enforcement of immigration laws and have little interest in easing them if Democrats refuse to fund the Mexican border wall. Democrats despise the proposed wall and, in return for border security funds, want to curb what they see as unnecessarily harsh enforcement by ICE.

People involved in the talks say Democrats have proposed limiting the number of immigrants here illegally who are caught inside the U.S. — not at the border — that the agency can detain. Republicans say they don't want that cap to apply to immigrants caught committing crimes, but Democrats do.

In a series of tweets about the issue, Trump used the dispute to cast Democrats as soft on criminals. He charged in one tweet: "The Border Committee Democrats are behaving, all of a sudden, irrationally. Not only are they unwilling to give dollars for the obviously needed Wall (they overrode recommendations of Border Patrol experts), but they don't even want to take murderers into custody! What's going on?"



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# Denver teachers prepare to strike

By THOMAS PEIPERT

Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Denver teachers are planning to strike Monday for the first time in 25 years after failed negotiations with the school district over base pay.

The teachers union and Denver Public Schools met Saturday in an attempt to reach a new contract after more than a year of negotiations, but both sides left disappointed.

The Denver Classroom Teachers Association released a statement after the meeting saying the district's proposal lacks transparency and "pushes for failed incentives for some over meaningful base salary for all."

"We will strike Monday for our students and for our profession, and perhaps then DPS will get the message and return to the bargaining table with a serious proposal aimed at solving the teacher turnover crisis in Denver," said Henry Roman, president of the teachers union.

Meanwhile, schools Superintendent Susana Cordova said she was "extremely disappointed" that the union walked away from the table instead of continuing to work toward an agreement.

"We presented an updated proposal that responds to what we heard from our teachers, aligns to our values of equity and retention ... and significantly increases the base pay for all of our educators," Cordova said.

Teachers plan to picket around the city beginning Monday as the district tries to keep schools open by staffing them with administrators and substitutes. The district has canceled classes for about 5,000 preschoolers because it doesn't have the staff to take care of them.

The two sides disagree about pay increases and bonuses for teachers in high-poverty schools and other schools that the district considers a priority. Teachers want lower bonuses to free up money



In this Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, file photo, teachers from the Denver Public Schools carry placards as they wait to march after a rally in support of a strike outside the State Capitol in Denver.

Associated Press

for better overall salaries, while administrators say the bonuses are necessary to boost the academic performance of poor and minority students.

Bonuses paid to teachers with more than 14 years of experience do not become part of their base

pay, which critics say encourages high turnover and hurts students. Both sides have agreed to get rid of that provision but disagree about how big the bonuses should be for teachers working in high-poverty schools and in schools deemed a high pri-

ority by the district.

Gov. Jared Polis decided Wednesday against intervening to stop the strike but said he may step in if it drags on. It's expected to cost about \$400,000 a day to keep schools operating with substitutes and administrators. □

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# Parents question whether shooting drills traumatize kids

By CAROLYN THOMPSON  
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) —

Long before an ex-student opened fire on his former classmates in Parkland, Florida, many school districts conducted regular shooting drills — exercises that sometimes included simulated gunfire and blood and often happened with no warning that the attack wasn't real.

The drills began taking shape after the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But 20 years later, parents are increasingly questioning elements of the practice, including whether the drills traumatize kids.

April Sullivan was pleasantly surprised by an "I love you, Mom" text from her daughter last May, even though



In this Jan. 22, 2013, file photo, a student helps block the classroom door with furniture during a mock lockdown drill at Moody High School in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Associated Press

is known as ALICE, which stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate.

"To me, this just seems like an indirect admission on the part of the schools that they really have no control over who gets into the building, and the school security officer isn't enough to keep the place safe so we need to hold the kids accountable for doing it," she said.

In 2014, the National Association of School Psychologists and the National Association of School Resource Officers issued joint guidance that cautioned that while drills have the potential to save lives, those "not conducted appropriately" can cause "physical and psychological harm to students, staff and the overall learning environment."

After public criticism of the unannounced Short Pump drill and others, the Virginia House of Delegates last month considered, but defeated, legislation requiring schools to give parents advance notification. The bill's Democratic sponsor, Schuyler VanValkenburg, a high school teacher, said opponents argued that the heads-up would hinder safety by letting students take it less seriously.

"I think that's baloney. They're very aware of what can happen in this day and age. They all see the news. They all see social media," said Sullivan, whose daughter declined to be interviewed by The Associated Press but described the drill for Richmond television station WWBT a few days later. "I thought I was probably going to die that day," she said. "We hear the door handle jiggling up and down and then we see the door open, and it's our resource officer telling us it's a drill."

When her son's school fired blanks during a drill, Adams questioned whether it was really necessary to expose children to the sound of gunfire. Others complained that such realistic exercises can take a toll on classroom learning even after the drills are done. □

she knew the eighth-grader wasn't supposed to be using her cellphone during school in Short Pump, Virginia. But she did not know that her child sent it while supposedly hiding from an intruder. The girl didn't know the "code blue" alert was a drill.

"To find out later she sent that text because she was in fear for her life did not sit well with me," Sullivan said. Henrico County Public Schools have since changed the way they conduct drills, making clear at the start that the events are not real and notifying parents as the drill begins or right after, district spokesman Andy Jenks said.

The backlash underlines the challenges administrators face in deciding how far to go in the name of preparedness.

Thirty-nine states require lockdown, active-shooter or similar safety drills. Other states have less explicit requirements or leave it to districts, according to the Education Commission of the States. A Mississippi task force has proposed twice-yearly active-shooter drills. But even as the drills become routine for many of the nation's 51 million elementary and secondary public school students, there is no consensus on how they should be con-

ducted, experts said. No data exists, for example, to show whether a drill with simulated gunfire is more effective or whether an exercise that's been announced in advance is taken less seriously than a surprise.

"Some hard data on each question are needed with urgency," said University at Buffalo professor Jeremy Finn, who gathered experts from around the country to evaluate school security measures at a conference in Washington, D.C., in October.

After Columbine, lockdowns that involved bolting the door and crouching quietly out of sight became the norm. In 2013, the Department of Education recommended giving staff latitude to evacuate, barricade classroom doors or, as a last resort, fight back by throwing things or rushing the attacker.

"Do you really want it to be your kid who's the one who takes the bullet and winds up with a plaque in the lobby of the school saying he went down as a hero?" asked Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, parent Nanette Adams, who disagreed with the decision to adopt a widely used safety protocol during a September drill at her 15-year-old son's high school. The protocol

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Several hundred people take part in a public snowball fight, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, at Wright Park in Tacoma, Wash.

Associated Press

## More snow likely for storm-buried Pacific Northwest

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Pacific Northwest residents who are more accustomed to rain than snow were digging out from a winter storm and bracing for more on Sunday.

The sun was out but the National Weather Service said snow would return late in the afternoon into the evening across the Northwest. Snowfall amounts will range from an inch to 3 inches (2.5 centimeters to 7.6 centimeters) through Sunday night.

Storms have delivered more snow to Seattle in the first days of February than it usually gets in a year, The Seattle Times reported.

Snow was expected to push into the Puget Sound area later Sunday afternoon and continue into the early overnight hours, the

weather service said. There will be a brief break before another system arrives.

"Don't overlook that first system," meteorologist Jacob DeFlitch told The Seattle Times. "But the second one will arrive right on its heels and looks to be more substantial. Between them, there's not much time to spare."

Temperatures were in the teens or single digits. Low temperature records could fall Sunday, meteorologists said. It was 9 degrees in Arlington, Washington early Sunday. The weather service said that was colder than the Arctic coast or North Slope of Alaska.

An expected 2 feet to 4 feet (0.6 meter to 1.21 meters) from Sunday through Wednesday in the Cascades could be welcome

to skiers and snowboarders, Will Ahue, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Portland, told The Oregonian. School district officials throughout Oregon and southwest Washington were closely following the weather forecasts and storm tracking for Monday classes, KOIN-TV reported. In Northern California, the latest in a series of storms dusted beaches with snow and caused whiteout conditions on mountain roads. The National Weather Service office in Eureka reported accumulating snow at sea level. KJEM-TV posted photos of Clam Beach in Arcata covered in fresh powder. The last time Humboldt County beaches saw snow was during the winter of 2002-03, forecasters said. □

## Alabama church removes pew honoring Confederate president

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)** — An Alabama church has removed a pew honoring Confederate President Jefferson Davis, saying the memorial had no place at a time when rebel symbols have been adopted by white supremacists.

The pastor of St. John's Episcopal Church, Robert C. Wisniewski Jr., posted a message on the church website last week saying the wooden pew was dedicated more than 90 years ago at a service featuring a pro-lynching segregationist.

After learning of the pew's history at a recent planning retreat, church leaders discussed it and then voted to remove the pew from the sanctuary and place it in the church archive, he wrote. □

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## Suspect charged in fatal shooting of Milwaukee officer

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — A man who was charged Sunday with killing a Milwaukee officer during a drug raid on his home told investigators that he didn't realize it was police trying to break down his door, authorities said. Jordan P. Fricke, 26, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide and other crimes in the fatal shooting of 35-year-old Officer Matthew Rittner, who was part of a tactical unit trying to serve a warrant to search the home for illegal drugs and weapons on Wednesday morning.

According to the criminal complaint, police announced their presence several times and said they had a search warrant, and an officer yelled "police" right before Fricke fired four rounds through a hole in the door that Rittner had made with a battering ram. Rittner died of a gunshot wound to the chest. Fricke was in bed with his girlfriend when they were awakened by loud noise and yelling. He told investigators that he never heard anyone yell "search warrant." He said he thought he heard someone say "police" but didn't think it was actually the police trying to break into his home, the complaint states. Fricke's girlfriend said she



Jordan P. Fricke appears in intake court and is charged in the murder of Milwaukee Police Officer Matthew Rittner, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

saw him shoot at the kitchen door and that she knew police were at the door because she heard them identify themselves, according to the complaint. A \$1 million cash bond was set Sunday for Fricke, who remained in jail. A court commissioner found probable cause to hold Fricke for further proceedings, and a preliminary hearing was set for Thursday. Fricke's attorney, Michael L. Chernin, declined comment. Rittner, a 17-year veteran of the force, was the third Milwaukee officer killed in the line of duty in eight months. □



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## South Korea, U.S. sign cost-sharing deal for American troops

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea and the United States struck a new deal Sunday that increases Seoul's contribution for the cost of the American military presence on its soil, overcoming previous failed negotiations that caused worries about their decades-long alliance.

The development comes as President Donald Trump is set to hold his second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam in late February.

South Korea last year provided about \$830 million, covering roughly 40 percent of the cost of the deployment of 28,500 U.S. soldiers whose presence is meant to deter aggression from North Korea. Trump has pushed for South Korea to pay more.

On Sunday, chief negotiators from the two countries signed a new cost-sharing plan, which requires South Korea to pay about 1.04 trillion won (\$924 million) in 2019, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said the two countries reaffirmed the need for a "stable" U.S. military deployment amid the "rapidly changing situation on the Korean Peninsula." The ministry said the U.S. as-



South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, right, and Timothy Betts, acting Deputy Assistant Secretary and Senior Advisor for Security Negotiations and Agreements in the U.S. Department of State, stand for the media before their meeting at Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

sured South Korea that it is committed to the alliance and has no plans to adjust the number of its troops in South Korea.

South Korea began paying for the U.S. military deployment in the early 1990s, after rebuilding its economy from the devastation of the 1950-1953 Korean War. The big U.S. military presence in South Korea is a symbol of the countries' alliance, forged in blood during the war, but also a source of long-running anti-American sentiments.

About 20 anti-U.S. activists rallied near the Foreign Ministry building in Seoul

on Sunday, chanting slogans like "No more money for U.S. troops." No violence was reported.

"The United States government realizes that Korea does a lot for our alliance and peace and stability in the region," chief U.S. negotiator Timothy Betts said Sunday in Seoul. "We are very pleased our consultations resulted in agreement that will strengthen transparency and deepen our cooperation and the alliance."

The deal, which involves the spending of South Korean taxpayer money, requires parliamentary approval in

South Korea, but not in the United States, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

The allies had failed to reach a new cost-sharing plan during some 10 rounds of talks. A five-year 2014 deal that covered South Korea's payment last year expired at the end of 2018. Some conservatives in South Korea voiced concerns over a weakening alliance with the United States at the same time as negotiations with North Korea to deprive it of its nuclear weapons hit a stalemate. They said Trump might use the failed military cost-sharing negotiations as an excuse to pull back some U.S. troops in South Korea as a bargaining chip in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Feb. 3 that he has no plans to withdraw troops from South Korea. During his election campaign, Trump suggested he could pull back troops from South Korea and Japan unless they took on greater a share of the financial burdens of supporting U.S. soldiers deployed there.

South Korean media earlier reported that Trump demanded South Korea double its spending for the U.S. military deployment, before his government eventually

asked for 1.13 trillion won (\$1 billion). Seoul's Foreign Ministry said the U.S. had called for a sharp increase in South Korean spending but didn't elaborate.

Trump announced last week that he will sit down with Kim for their second summit. Their first summit in Singapore last June resulted in Kim's vague commitment to the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," a term that his propaganda machine previously used when it argued it would only denuclearize after the U.S. withdraws its troops from South Korea. Trump's top envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, visited Pyongyang last week to work out details of the upcoming summit. After being briefed by Biegun about his Pyongyang trip, South Korea's presidential office said Sunday that U.S. and North Korean officials plan to meet again the week of Feb. 17 in an unidentified Asian country. The U.S. military arrived in South Korea to disarm Japan, which colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45, following its World War II defeat. Most U.S. troops were withdrawn in 1949 but they returned the next year to fight alongside South Korea in the Korean War. □

## May urges UK lawmakers: Give me more time to get Brexit deal

LONDON (AP) — With Brexit just 47 days away, the British government asked lawmakers on Sunday to give Prime Minister Theresa May more time to rework her divorce deal with the European Union.

Communities Secretary James Brokenshire said Parliament would get to pass judgment on May's Brexit plan "no later than Feb. 27."

The promise is a bid to avert a showdown on Thursday, when Parliament is set to debate and vote on next moves in the Brexit process. Some lawmakers want to try to seize control and steer the country toward a softer exit from the bloc.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, but Parliament has rejected May's divorce bill, leaving the prime

minister to seek changes from the EU. The U.K.'s bid for last-minute changes has exasperated EU leaders, who insist the legally binding withdrawal agreement can't be changed.

The impasse risks a chaotic "no deal" departure for Britain, which could be painful for businesses and ordinary people on both sides of the Channel.

British businesses fear a no-deal Brexit will cause gridlock at ports by ripping up the trade rulebook and imposing tariffs, customs checks and other barriers between the U.K. and the EU, its biggest trading partner.

Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl told the BBC that a "disorderly exit" was now the most likely option.

Opponents of the government accuse May of deliberately wasting time so that Parliament will face a last-minute choice between her deal and no deal.

Carolyn Fairbairn of business group the Confederation of British Industry said failure to secure a deal in good time was "negligence on behalf of our political institutions and leaders." □



# Thousands join right-wing rally in Madrid, demand PM resign

By JOSEPH WILSON

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

Tens of thousands of people joined a right-wing rally in Spain's capital Sunday to demand that Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez step down for his handling of the Catalonia region's secession crisis.

Many in the crowd assembled in Madrid's Plaza de Colon waved the national flag and chanted slogans in support of Spain's security forces along with calling for the Socialist prime minister's resignation.

The conservative opposition Popular Party and the center-right Citizens party organized the rally, which the upstart far-right Vox party and other far-right parties backed.

"The time of Sanchez's government is over," Popular Party president Pablo Casado said. He asked voters to punish Sanchez's Socialists in the European, local and regional elections in May.

The political tensions come as a highly sensitive trial at Spain's Supreme Court starts Tuesday for 12 Catalan separatists who face charges, including rebellion, for their roles in a failed secession attempt in 2017. Sanchez inherited the Catalan conflict from former Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, the then-leader of the Popular Party. Rajoy proved incapable of stopping support for secession from swelling in Catalonia to roughly half of the north-eastern region's voters.

Speaking at a Socialist

party event in northern Spain, Sanchez reminded his political opponents that when he was an opposition leader, he stood by Rajoy on the situation in Catalonia even after separatist regional officials staged an Oct. 2017 independence referendum in defiance of Spanish courts.

"And what I am doing now as prime minister, always respecting the constitution, is to solve a national crisis to which the Popular Party has contributed," Sanchez said.

"The unity of Spain means uniting Spaniards and not confronting them as the right wing is doing in Plaza de Colon today," he said. Sanchez came to power in June promising to thaw tensions between central authorities in Madrid and the Catalan leaders in Barcelona. He met twice with Catalan chief Quim Torra. Members of the central and regional governments had several more encounters.

Sanchez had said he would be willing to help Catalan lawmakers agree to a new Charter Law, which determines the amount of self-rule the region enjoys. But Sanchez's government broke off negotiations on Friday, when Vice President Carmen Calvo said the separatists wouldn't budge from their demand for an independence referendum.

Sanchez is trying to cobble together support to pass a national budget. His minority government will need

votes from the Catalan separatists and other parties to pass it.

Even though Sanchez has said he wants to see out the legislative term through 2020, a failure to win a budget vote will crank up the pressure on him to call for an early election. □



Demonstrators hold banners and Spanish flags during a protest in Madrid, Spain, on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019. Thousands of Spaniards in Madrid are joining a rally called by right-wing political parties to demand that Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez step down.

Associated Press

## Anti-India protests erupt in Kashmir after 5 rebels killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP) —

Five rebels were killed in fighting with government forces in disputed Kashmir on Sunday, the Indian army said, triggering anti-India clashes in which at least 10 civilians were injured.

The fighting began after

Indian government forces cordoned off a village in the Himalayan region's southern Kulgam area following a tip that militants were hiding there, said Col. Rajesh Kalia, a spokesman for the Indian military in Kashmir. □

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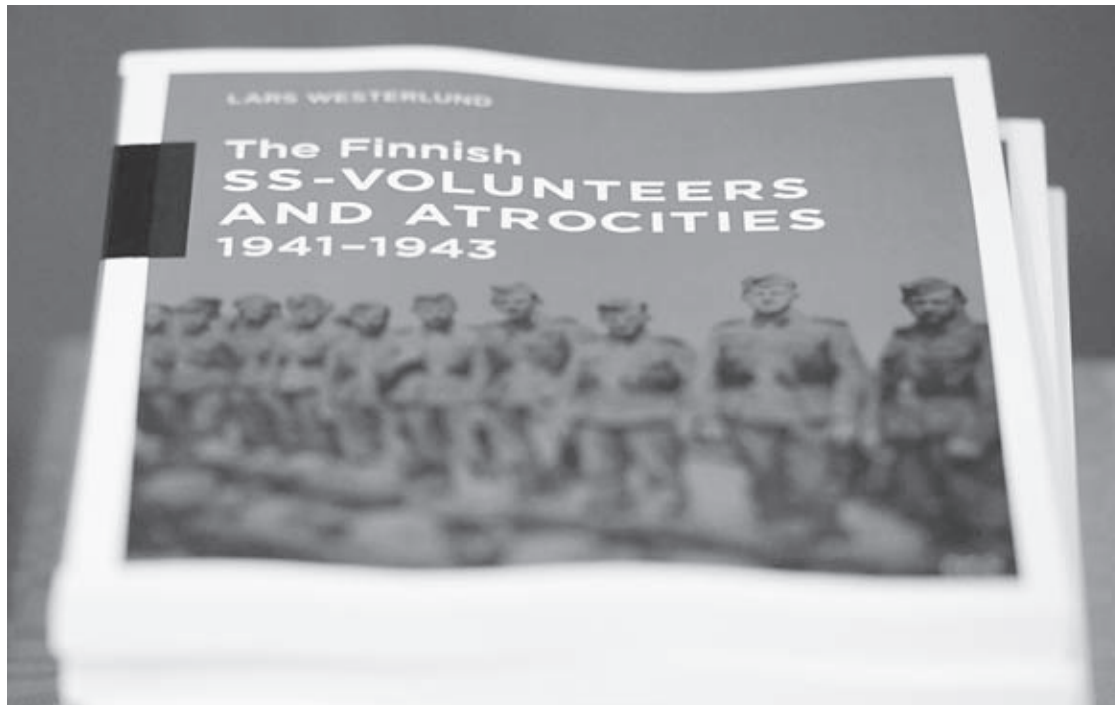
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## Report: Finnish SS volunteers likely killed Jews in WWII

By JARI TANNER  
Associated Press

**HELSINKI (AP)** — An Israeli Holocaust historian praised authorities in Finland on Sunday for publishing a report that concluded Finnish volunteers serving with Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS "very likely" took part in World War II atrocities, including the mass murder of Jews. Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center lauded the determination of the National Archives of Finland to release the findings even if doing so was "painful and uncomfortable" for Finland. Zuroff called the decision an "example of unique and exemplary civic courage." Finland's government commissioned the independent 248-page investigative



The research document entitled *The Finnish SS-volunteers and atrocities 1941 - 1943 against Jews, detailing atrocities against civilians and Prisoners of War in Ukraine and the Caucasus Region*, pictured in Helsinki, Finland, on Friday Feb. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

The Finnish soldiers were not under Nazi command, and the country's leadership was mainly motivated by the desire to take back the territories lost to Moscow. "At the beginning of the attack (on the Soviet Union), Finns were unaware of the Germans' goal of eradicating the Jews," Nuorteva said. "Finns were, above all, interested in fighting against the Soviet Union" due to their brutal experiences in the Winter War and the perceived threat from Moscow. In this way, "the starting point for Finns' involvement was different compared to most other countries joining SS foreign volunteers," he said.

Finnish SS volunteers with the SS Wiking division operated on the eastern front until 1943, entering deep into Ukraine. The leading Finnish military historians who undertook the study of the country's wartime role wrote that the Finnish SS volunteers likely took part in killing Jews and other civilians, as well as witnessed atrocities committed by the Germans.

The volunteers returned to Finland after the Finnish government sensed the tide of the war had turned against the Germans. Many of them then served in the Finnish military until the end of World War II. A copy of Friday's report was given to Paula Lehtomaki, a state secretary with the Finnish government, who said it was a valuable contribution to existing research "on difficult and significant historical events" during Finland's complex World War II history.

"We share the responsibility for ensuring that such atrocities will never be repeated," said Lehtomaki. □

report, which was made public Friday. It said 1,408 Finnish volunteers served with the SS Panzer Division Wiking during 1941-43, most of them 17 to 20-years-old. "It is very likely that they (Finnish volunteers) participated in the killing of Jews, other civilians and prisoners of war as part of the German SS troops," said Jussi Nuorteva, director general of the National Archives. A significant part of the study was based on diaries kept by 76 of the Finnish SS volunteers. Eight of the Finnish SS volunteers are still alive, Nuorteva said. Finland was invaded by Moscow in November 1939. The fighting in what became known as the Finnish-Soviet Winter War lasted until March 1940, when an overwhelmed and outnumbered Finland agreed to a bitter peace treaty. The small Nordic country lost several territories but maintained its independence. Isolated from the rest of Europe and afraid of another

Soviet attack, Finland entered into an alliance with Germany, receiving weapons and other material help from Berlin.

As part of the pact, Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler insisted that Finland dispatch soldiers to the SS Wiking division, similar to the volunteers it demanded from Nazi-occupied Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and elsewhere. Reluctantly, Finland complied and covertly recruited the first group of 400 SS volunteers to be sent for training in the spring of 1941. The vast majority of them had no ideological sympathies with the Nazi regime, the report said. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 under Operation Barbarossa, Finnish regular army troops fought independently alongside Wehrmacht soldiers on the northeastern front. In 1941, the Finns advanced in the Karelia region outside Leningrad.



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## As Algerian leader ails, would-be challengers eye election

By AOMAR OUALI  
Associated Press

**ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)** — A record number of people want to run for president of Algeria in the country's April election, amid growing uncertainty about whether incumbent Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who said Sunday he plans to seek a fifth term despite being infirm since a 2013 stroke, is fit enough after two decades in charge of this gas-rich North African nation.

In the two weeks since the electoral process was launched, 186 people have requested the documents needed to declare their candidacy. That's more than double the number of potential candidates at this stage in the last presidential election, in 2014.

Most will never get the signatures necessary to formally get on the April 18 ballot. But the range of candidates suggests wide frustration with the status quo.

Bouteflika, 82, announced via Algeria's official APS news agency Sunday that he plans to seek a further five-year term. Yet his fitness for office was already a question in the 2014 election, coming a year after a stroke left him speaking and moving with difficulty and largely confined to a wheelchair.

He has only been seen in public a few times a year throughout his entire fourth term — yet many Algerians would likely vote for Bouteflika again, for fear of the instability that his departure could unleash.

Algeria's Western allies also

worry about a political earthquake in Africa's largest country by land mass, home to 42 million people and an al-Qaida affiliate that has targeted foreigners in the past.

Among Bouteflika's top challengers are former Prime Minister Ali Benflis, the runner-up in 2014 and today's main opposition candidate; influential retired Gen. Ali Ghediri; and the leader of a moderate Islamist party, Abderazak Makri.

The heads of several small political parties from across the spectrum are also hoping to run — along with many Algerians who don't have the slightest links to politics.

Would-be candidate Salah Kemmach wants to run because he was born the day that former President Houari Boumediene died in 1978.

"For me, it's a sign of destiny" he says in a video getting attention on social media. "I decided to take my responsibility to continue (Boumediene's) project, abandoned by those who succeeded him."

Another candidate, a former street cleaner from the western city of Oran, says he wants to be president "to eat steak."

While some dismiss the wannabe presidents as nothing more than carnival jesters, political science professor Mohamed Lagab of Algiers University says the huge number of potential candidates is a sign of degradation in Algerian politics.

"Political practices have

fallen very low. When holders of dirty money buy parliament seats with billions, when people implicated in legal scandals find themselves in visible political posts, when people with no intellectual experience and no political conscience want to become president, minister, senator — then you shouldn't be surprised to see today this type of candidate," he told The Associated Press.

Corruption has long eaten away at public trust in Algeria, from its opaque energy sector to the highest levels of politics. Dirty money scandals surrounded the 2017 parliamentary election, with the son of the governing party leader suspected of taking bribes in exchange for spots on the party's candidate list.

Other parties said they were approached by people offering to drum up signatures for potential candidates in exchange for cash.

To get on the ballot, candidates must gather 60,000 signatures of citizens or 6,000 signatures of elected officials, spread out over 25 of Algeria's 48 administrative departments.

Bouteflika won the 2014 election with 81 percent of the vote despite not even appearing in his own campaign. He is appreciated for helping reconcile the country after a devastating civil war in the 1990s between Islamic insurgents and the military that left around 200,000 people dead.

But the country and its people remain scarred by the



In this May 4, 2017, file photo, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika prepares to vote in Algiers.

Associated Press

years of violence.

Algeria also still struggles with sporadic extremism

and its struggling economy is heavily dependent on volatile world oil prices. □

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## Astronomers unlikely victims of Mexico's violence, crime



In this Nov. 16, 2013 file photo, the Large Millimeter Telescope stands on the summit of the Sierra Negra peak near the town of Atzitzintla, Mexico.

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Astronomers have become the latest victims of Mexico's violence with activities at two observatories being reduced because their staff suffered crimes while travelling to the remote mountain sites, researchers said Thursday.

The problems occurred near the Alfonso Serrano Large Millimeter Telescope, or LMT, in the central Mexico state of Puebla. It is the world's largest single-dish steerable millimeter-wavelength telescope and is

jointly run by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Mexico's national institute of astrophysics.

LMT "has reduced its scientific activities to a minimum level due to the security problems in the region surrounding the telescope," said university spokesman Ed Blaguszewski.

"The University of Massachusetts Amherst has suspended travel of UMass personnel to the LMT site, and we have retained security consultants to advise us on security risks in the

area and strategies to deal with these risks," he said.

Mexico's astrophysics institute said in a statement that "the unsafe conditions that prevail in the region are well known and public." The other affected site is the HAWC gamma ray and

cosmic ray observation facility. The HWAC is an international collaboration between more than 30 institutions in Mexico, the United States, and Europe.

Both are located on the Sierra Negra volcano near the Pico de Orizaba, Mex-

ico's highest peak, where the clear air and lack of nearby. The area, around Puebla state's border with neighboring Veracruz, has long been the scene of criminal activity by the now-fragmented Zetas drug cartel. □

## Doctors demand humanitarian aid be allowed into Venezuela



Venezuelan doctors shout slogans against the government of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro at the International Bridge Tienditas, which has been blocked by the Venezuelan military, near Cucuta, Colombia, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, across the border from Tachira, Venezuela.

Associated Press

**CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)** — Venezuelan doctors protested Sunday at the entrance to a bridge blocked by their nation's military to demand that humanitarian aid be allowed to enter, as opposition leader Juan Guaido acknowledged the conflict over the food and medical supplies could lead to clashes.

Carrying a giant Venezuelan flag, about two dozen doctors in white coats called on the military to remove a tanker and two cargo containers blocking the Tienditas International Bridge where humanitarian aid provided by the United States is being stored.

The doctors protested on

the Colombia side of the border, saying they would face repercussions for holding a similar demonstration on the Venezuelan side.

Dr. Katia Diaz, a psychiatrist, said that each day aid sits waiting for transport into Venezuela represents one more day in which patient lives are at risk.

"Those containers represent the arrogance of a dictator," she said. "It lays bare the lack of humanity, of compassion for the pain of our people." Guaido, the leader of the National Assembly who four dozen nations are recognizing as Venezuela's rightful president, urged the military to think carefully about how

they will proceed. Attending a church service Sunday with his family, he recognized that the feud between those who do and do not want the aid to be let in could lead to clashes. "It depends on you," he said to the military. "We're not talking between the lines. We're talking clearly and decisively, giving an order to the armed forces: To allow the aid in."

President Nicolas Maduro has vowed not to let the supplies pass, saying Venezuela isn't a nation of beggars. He contends the food, hygiene kits and emergency medical gear are part of a larger ploy by the United States to remove him from power.

The U.S. provided the aid and the Colombian government helped ensure its transport to the border, but the opposition is charged with handling the aid's distribution within Venezuela. They have not yet announced how they plan for the aid to enter if the military does not consent.

Guaido declared himself Venezuela's interim president before masses of cheering supporters in late January, arguing that under the constitution he should become chief of state because Maduro's reelection was a sham. □

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## L.G. Smith Steak & Chop House: "It is All about the Right Mindset"



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One wall in the restaurant carries an artsy face with: Attitude is Everything. Well, the staff of L.G. Smith Steak & Chop House chooses the right attitude. "We are honored by the recognitions on TripAdvisor, a reward after years of hard work and dedication and a goal set to become #1. And we did it," says Heidi. What makes this steak & chop house stand out? According to the comments they receive from guests it's the service in combination with the

high quality food. "This is a team effort, without a successful team you cannot achieve this. We believe in consistency and passion for the job." Unique detail is the Butcher Table; they bring their fine steaks and salt to your table to choose from. The restaurant itself has a city-like vibe and a styling where old school is respected while the new world is discovered. A DJ plays chill lounge music to complete the confident setting.

### Miracle Meat Man

The 'miracle meat man' behind the kitchen delights is executive chef Sebastian Cechet from Uruguay. "We invest in very high quality products, a good example is the Kobe beef which is authentic Wagyu from Japan, the **ONLY** one on the island. Not everybody knows what this is so let me explain. The Wagyu is a Japanese cow and there is a certain region in Japan where they raise this cattle to a certain standard, in this case the region is Kobe. There is also Wagyu raised in the U.S. and Australia,

either is a full-bred Japanese cow or a cross-breed between Japanese and local cow, both are not authentic from Japan but still great meat." Every Friday night the restaurant has its HaiKobe night, where you can enjoy the real thing against a price that gives great bang for the buck, says the chef. "Our supplier in the States informed us that in the U.S. one pays minimum \$ 25 per ounce while our price is \$ 15 per ounce, quite a difference."

### USDA-certified Angus Beef

The restaurant offers several beef programs, among others the prime steaks; USDA-certified Angus Beef, and there are options for fish and seafood. The chef continues explaining the dry aged experience; how they give their steak its unique flavor. "Before our prime cuts make their way to your plate, we place them inside our dry-aging chamber for 30-60 days. This dry-aging process allows natural enzymes inside the steak to break down muscle tissue, tenderizing the texture and accentuating its flavor. Venture inside and taste one for yourself." Naturally there is a broad wine menu with choices from all over the world and the most awesome Craft Cocktails, such as WATER, SMOKE, MIST & FIRE. Each cocktail is carefully crafted to perfection and incorporates fresh organic juices, local Aruban aloe; premium whiskey, bourbon, gin, port and cognac; and/or herbs such as lavender, sage and sweet bay leaf, among other ingredients. The unexpected presentation of each drink is what takes the cocktails to the next level, incorporating all the trends of modern mixology. "Cherry on the pie is our service, we make no concessions about that." For both manager and chef, there is only one answer when we ask their favorite dish: "Wagyu from Japan! It is simply the best and a unique offering on this island." □







## Aruba's tourists make a difference with the "Carry Your Cup" pledge

**MALMOK** — The popular tourist attraction, Jolly Pirates proves eco-friendly- with its invitation to their guests to participate in a #Carryyourcup Campaign.

It's a simple concept. Jolly Pirates asks visitors to help to reduce waste with the #carryyourcup pledge. Bring your own cup or purchase a \$2 Jolly Pirate reusable BPA-free option instead of using wasteful single-use disposable plastic.

You can do your part to reduce waste by using a reusable cup aboard a Jolly Pirates morning or afternoon snorkel cruise or a lovely sunset sail. Guests are encouraged to join the movement, to limit wasteful plastic in Aruba's landfill and from inadvertently polluting the Sea.

"If you love the ocean like we do, you naturally want to do something about it", explains the ship's Captains Julio, Ron and Edwin.

Reusable cups can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates souvenir shop. Both great-looking and durable, the Jolly Pirates BPA-free reusable cup provides an easy way to join the #carryyourcup pledge for a cleaner Aruba and a healthier environment for sea critters, fish and wildlife.

The Jolly Pirates #carryyourcup campaign is just one of many eco-friendly ways in which the popular excursion company, is striving to support more clean Aruba efforts. The Jolly Pirates team participates in Aruba Reef Care projects, Beach clean ups and also participates in the #5minutebeachcleanup to pick up trash that others have left behind.

Purchase a souvenir cup when you visit the Jolly Pirates ticket shop at MooMba Beach.

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*Feature Menu*

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# Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

## A New Crew

**IEAGLE BEACH** — As I've touched on in previous articles there is an issue of an aging staff to contend with in the hospitality industry. In both our maintenance and housekeeping departments, they're feeling the sting of age, as some people get closer to retirement age and others aren't able to perform to their former standard, due to illness, pain or injury.

As some of our colleagues come to the close of their careers, new people are joking the team as they begin their own journey. For every celebration of a career well done, there's also a welcoming to the change of the guard. We aren't the only people affected by the change though. After long careers many of our staff have developed interpersonal relationships with our members and longtime guests.

Oftentimes they're heartbroken at hearing the news that this person they've become used to seeing year after year will no longer be there to greet them with their warm smiles and welcoming embraces. Being the new guy it can be a daunting challenge to overcome not only integrating to a new environment, but also having to step into the shoes of the people



they are replacing. The challenge is especially hard when you start working in a timeshare, it's a different way of doing things, the standoffish nature of working in a transient resort no longer exists, everyone becomes a member of an extended family and you're the new person recently adopted in, trying to find your place, while adapting to a new routine.

It can take time for our members to get used to the new faces, they can at times even be resistant to the change, preferring to find someone else they are familiar with to help them than building a relationship with the new person. I've been on both ends of that spectrum and been compared to my predecessor, it can be a challenge to establish yourself when you're constantly being compared both by colleagues and guests who have become used to a certain standard over the years they've been coming.

Now that I've been integrated into the team and accepted by the members, I've been on the other side seeing people leave and welcoming in new people. I try to remember my own start and help them to integrate in the best way possible, while fighting my own urges to guide them into my way of doing things. My poor interns already have to deal with that, so I try to remember that the people hired to take over are trained and educated professionals who know what they're doing.

It's never an easy transition, but after a few weeks of getting used to each other and seeing how the work flows it gets easier. Eventually work friends are made and slowly but surely members start to develop a new relationship, a new friendship and a new trust. Comparisons to the past lessen and the future is allowed to thrive. Watching a new career start to blossom is one of the most fascinating things about my job. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.



# SPORTS



## Ducks fire coach Randy Carlyle amid seven-game losing streak

By JOE REEDY  
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Anaheim Ducks general manager Bob Murray tried to give Randy Carlyle as much time as possible to turn things around. But a seven-game losing streak and freefall into last place in the Western Conference showed Murray that a turnaround wasn't coming soon.

Murray announced that he would take over as interim coach for the remainder of the regular season after firing Carlyle on Sunday. Anaheim will hire a new coach following the season.

"What has happened here lately and how we have played, it was time for change," Murray said during a conference call. "Some people thought I waited far too long but this team has a history of coming on and charging late. I realized it wasn't going to happen a few days ago that it wasn't going to happen."

After no firings last year, the Ducks are the sixth team to make a change this season, joining Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, Edmonton and Philadelphia.

The 62-year-old Carlyle, the winningest coach in Ducks history, was in his second stint with Anaheim. He led the team to the Stanley Cup in 2007 and three appearances in the Western Conference Final (2006, 2007, 2017).

Anaheim has made the playoffs six straight seasons but won just two of its last 21 games.

Continued on Page 22

# BRONZE STAR



## Vonn wins bronze medal in the final race of her career

United States' Lindsey Vonn speeds down the course during the women's downhill race, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press  
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# Doncic, Mavericks erase deficit in 102-101 win over Blazers

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

**DALLAS (AP)** — Luka Doncic was summoned back to the court for a very brief speech to a group of about 100 Slovenians who made the 24-hour trek to see their countryman, the teenage rookie sensation for the Dallas Mavericks.

The bigger thrill for the visitors came a little earlier when Doncic helped engineer a fourth-quarter comeback against the playoff-contending Portland Trail Blazers.

Doncic scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth, Tim Hardaway Jr. finished with 24 and the Mavericks erased a 15-point deficit in the final 10 minutes for a 102-101 victory Sunday.

"I don't normally play him the whole quarter, but when we began to make the push early in the fourth it was just one those times where he was going to have to finish for us to have a chance," said coach Rick Carlisle, whose team matched its biggest comeback of the season.

Damian Lillard scored 21 of his 30 points in the last half of the third quarter to help the Blazers build a lead that grew to 96-81 early in the fourth before the Mavericks mounted their rally.

Lillard made eight straight shots and in one stretch scored 16 straight Portland points in the third, but the All-Star guard missed his last four attempts as the Blazers went 10:10 without a field goal in a nine-point fourth quarter.

The last miss from Lillard was a driving layup in the final seconds after Doncic had missed at the other end, and Dallas' Maxi Kleber hunched over with the rebound and hung on long enough for time to expire.

"Some missed opportunities, some turnovers, some poor decisions, and you have got to give Dallas a lot of credit," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "They play with a lot of energy."

There is plenty of debate over whether the Maver-

icks still want to make the playoffs after trading the other four starters around Doncic in a pair of deals that were clearly about the future over the present.

Three of the starters went to New York, and the Mavericks have decided not to play the centerpiece of that deal. They instead plan to let 2018 All-Star Kristaps Porzingis continue his recovery from a knee injury sustained about a year ago with the Knicks. Hardaway was the second-biggest part of the deal for Dallas, and had his best showing in his third game. With the intensity of the rally building, he won a scramble for a loose ball and weaved through defenders for an emphatic left-handed dunk to get Dallas within one.

Doncic gave the Mavericks their first lead since early in the second quarter with a finger-roll layup, then the 19-year-old put them ahead for good with a 3-point play on a driving layup for a 102-99 lead with 1:28 remaining.

After CJ McCollum made a shot, the teams exchanged misses before Lillard's last-second attempt in the third loss in the past 10 games for Portland.

"I just think it's a message because they're a team that's below .500 right now," Lillard said. "They just had a trade. They got all new guys and things like that, and it's a game that we should be able to win." Justuf Nurkic had 18 points on 9-of-11 shooting and 10 rebounds before fouling out when Hardaway got the Mavericks to 97-all on free throws. They had been even at 67 in the third before Lillard took over and gave the Blazers a comfortable lead.

Dwight Powell had 13 points and eight rebounds, including an alley-oop dunk from Doncic that kicked the comeback into another gear while getting Dallas within six. Doncic had nine rebounds and six assists.

Dorian Finney-Smith started

the game-ending 21-5 run by tipping in his own miss and finished with 11 points and six boards.

## TIP-INS

**Blazers:** McCollum was just 6 of 17 from the field and finished with 14 points, ending his career-best streak of three straight games with at least 30 points. ... Seth Curry scored four points against his former team. The Mavericks had interest in bringing back Curry this season as a key 3-point threat after he missed the 2017-18 season with a stress fracture in his lower left leg.

**Mavericks:** C Salah Mejri was re-signed three days after being waived as part of the trade that sent Harrison Barnes to Sacramento.



Portland Trail Blazers' Rodney Hood (5) defends as Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) drives to the basket for a shot in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

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# Clink, clink: Vonn walks away with another medal

By **ANDREW DAMPF** and **STEVE DOUGLAS**

**AP Sports Writers**

**ARE, Sweden (AP)** — Lindsey Vonn walked off with her career haul of medals in her right hand, the gold, silver and bronze clinking together almost weighing her down.

Or was it the bulging knee braces and metal support rods inside her vast array of broken bones?

Whatever it was, the sound was a reminder of what Vonn has come to symbolize — an athlete who battled back from one major injury after another throughout her career to win more ski races than any other woman.

Add one more — final — comeback to the list

Five days after crashing in super-G — a fall that knocked the wind out of her and left her with a black eye and a bruised rib — and three months after tearing a ligament in her left knee, Vonn won the bronze medal in the world championship downhill Sunday in the final race of her career.

She's shed so many tears that there are none left — just like she no longer has any cartilage in her knees. "I'm literally tapped out, I can't cry anymore," Vonn said. "I want to cry but it's dry. ... It's not an easy thing to feel your bones hitting together and continue to push through it."

"Of course I'm sore. Even before the crash I was sore. So I'm just sore on top of sore. My neck is killing me," Vonn said. "But at the end of the day no one cares if my neck hurts; they only care if I win. ... I knew that I was capable of pushing



**United States' Lindsey Vonn shows her career's medals as she holds a press conference after taking the bronze medal in the women's downhill race, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.**

through the pain one last time and I did that. ... Every athlete has their own obstacles and I faced mine head on today and I conquered them."

Vonn had been planning on retiring in December but she recently moved up her plans due to persistent pain in both of her surgically repaired knees. Then came the super-G crash, when she straddled a gate in mid-air, flew face first down the mountain and slammed into the safety nets.

"She has been business as usual this whole week, saying I'm racing to win," Karin Kildow, Vonn's sister, told The Associated Press. "I was like, 'Just maybe make it down and maybe stand up.' But she was like, 'No, I'm going full out'. She was definitely in the mindset to push it and she really did." It's a medal that brings Vonn full circle: the Ameri-

can's two silvers at the 2007 worlds on the same course in Are were the first two major championship medals of her career.

"I was weighing in my mind the risk of putting it all out there, crashing and getting injured again, as opposed to finishing where I wanted to," Vonn said. "It was an internal battle."

As soon as she exited the finish area, Vonn embraced Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark, the only skier to win more World Cup races than she did — 86 to 82.

"I basically begged him to come here via text, in all caps, many exclamation points," Vonn said. "He's an icon and a legend in our sport and he doesn't really like the spotlight but he deserves to have it. I was just so grateful that he was there. Honestly, it's a perfect ending to my career."

The third skier on the course, Vonn had a big smile on her face when she came down with the fastest run to that point. She waved and bowed to the crowd. Eventually, Ilka Stuhec of Slovenia beat Vonn and took gold, defending her title from the 2017 worlds. Stuhec finished 0.23 seconds ahead of silver medalist Corinne Suter of Switzerland and 0.49 ahead of Vonn.

"Not many were counting on (Vonn) to get the medal in her last race, which makes it even more special," Stuhec said. "She has won everything."

Vonn became the first female skier to win medals at six different world championships. It's also her fifth downhill medal at a worlds, matching the record established by Annemarie Moser-Proell and Christel Cranz. "Thank You Lindsey:

Forever A Star," read one sign positioned by the side of the course.

Four U.S. flags were in the grandstand when Vonn came down and there were quite a few cheers when she started her run wearing a suit with blue-and-yellow trim — Sweden's colors — to honor Stenmark.

"She really deserves this sendoff from her great career," said Eleanor Bodin, a 21-year-old fan from Sweden who was holding up a sign saying "Thank You Lindsey."

"She has been my favorite skier since 2008 when I saw her winning on television," Bodin said. "I was a little girl sitting on the sofa. I just thought what a great skier and inspiration."

At 34, Vonn eclipsed her own record from two years ago for oldest woman to win a medal at a worlds.

Fog and wind forced organizers to shorten the course to the second reserve start, which favored Vonn because it reduced the strain on her knees.

Now she can finally let her body heal and move onto the next phase of her life — possibly acting, having children, starting a business.

"I'm looking forward to just chilling out a bit and recovering everything, including my mind," Vonn said. "It's been a lot to process."

"The nice thing is that, in the real world I'm actually pretty young. I have felt really old for a long time, because I'm racing with girls that are like 15 years younger than me. So now, in the real world, I'm normal. Thirty is the new 20 so I'm super young. I've got a lot to look forward to." □

## Worlds slopestyle final canceled, medals based on qualifying

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP)** — The 17-year-old snowboarder from New Zealand wasn't even going to compete in the slopestyle final Sunday after being injured during qualifying.

This was indeed a wind-aided win for Zoi Sadowski-Synnott.

Sadowski-Synnott breezed

to the title after the finals were canceled Sunday due to strong wind gusts on the last day of the world championships. The organizers based the women's and men's medalists on the qualifying rounds.

It was quite a break for Sadowski-Synnott, who acknowledged she wasn't go-

ing to be able to ride in the final. Silje Norendal of Norway wound up with the silver, and two-time Olympic champion Jamie Anderson of South Lake Tahoe, California, finished with the bronze.

"I was honestly pretty sad they canceled the finals. There are a lot of mixed

emotions," Anderson said. "I was on the podium, but I still wanted to have a chance to ride better. There were definitely some gusty winds, and they made the best decision."

Sadowski-Synnott turned in a solid first run in qualifying on Saturday before being banged up on her second

attempt. She told Radio New Zealand she has a concussion.

"I was really stoked with yesterday's run," said Sadowski-Synnott, who won the slopestyle event at the Winter X Games last month. "I really liked the course. I thought it had a really nice flow." □





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# Johnson triggers wreck, then wins Clash at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Jimmie Johnson's youngest daughter prays every night for Daddy to win a race. When Johnson scuffled through the worst season of his career, he felt the strain of not reaching victory lane.

"It was putting some pressure on me," Johnson said. Johnson called the invocation "cute to hear."

He didn't feel the same about critical comments saying Johnson was past his prime. The 43-year-old Johnson tweeted "I'm far from done" in the off-season, and with a risky move in the rain, he showed there's plenty left.

Johnson triggered a wreck that wiped out nearly the entire 20-car field at Daytona and zipped to the lead to win the rain-shortened exhibition Clash on Sunday. The seven-time Cup Series champion failed to win a race for the first time in his career in 2018, but a dose of aggression put him back in victory lane during the opening weekend of Speedweeks. Johnson's win capped a banner day for Hendrick Motorsports: teammates William Byron and Alex Bowman locked in the front row for the Daytona 500 earlier in the day in qualifying.

"It's been a pretty awesome day," Hendrick said. "I hate we had the wreck there at the end, but it's been a really good day for the team."

The celebration at Daytona comes with a caveat: the last Daytona 500 pole-sitter to win the race was Dale Jarrett in 2000, and Johnson's victory doesn't count in the official NASCAR record book.

Paul Menard led 51 laps and controlled the race interrupted three times for



Jimmie Johnson, center, celebrates with car owner Rick Hendrick, left, and crew members after winning the NASCAR Clash auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

rain. With more rain looming, Johnson dipped low and tried to side-draft Menard as they battled for the lead. But Johnson turned Menard and started a chain-reaction accident that left cars sideways and smoking behind the No. 48 Chevrolet.

"I looked in the mirror and there were a lot of cars caught up in it," Johnson said.

The rain that ended the race hit not long after the decisive move and Johnson won for the first time with new crew chief Kevin Meendering and new primary sponsor Ally.

"I inherited a great core group of guys with the 48 team," Meendering said. "There's a strong foundation there, and the team really works well together, and it

gels together. It's made that transition a lot easier."

Johnson and longtime crew chief Chad Knaus split at the end of last season after seven championships. Knaus beat Johnson in the race to the first race day bash — by just a few hours. But the race to victory lane in a race that really counts comes in the regular season, and Johnson hasn't won a Cup race since June 4, 2017 at Dover.

"We still need a points race win to say we're back in victory lane," Johnson said. "But it was a great first step today."

The wreck came 55 laps into the 75-lap event, and the race was called just four laps later. Kurt Busch was second, followed by Joey Logano, Ryan Blaney and Bowman.

Busch said team owner Chip Ganassi complained to NASCAR about Johnson driving below the double-yellow line to make the move. But Johnson was not penalized because he wrecked forced him that low. "I think Johnson had a legitimate run to go for the lead," Busch said.

Menard was positioned to win for Wood Brothers Racing only weeks after the death of team founder Glen Wood. Wood was 93 and had been the oldest living member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame when he died last month after a long illness.

"I felt like it was aggressive side-drafting," Menard said. "I got turned to the inside and hooked to the right and all hell broke loose."

Johnson had been caught

up in many crashes in the Clash, failing to finish on the lead lap in each of the seven exhibition races. He was down at least 25 laps in five straight Clashes, and understands just how quickly a race at Daytona can change. "I have a split-second decision to try to win a race, and I set up the pass and got position on him clean," Johnson said. "I don't know what triggered his car wobbling and then the accident started from there." Johnson had already proved at Daytona he was good on the long run — and with the 48 in the garage. He competed in the 40 to 44 age division early Sunday in the Daytona Beach half marathon and finished with a time of 1 hour, 34 minutes, 18.4 seconds. □



# Marchand's OT goal lifts Bruins over Avalanche 2-1

By GETHIN COOLBAUGH

Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Brad Marchand has a knack for the net in overtime. A lucky bounce helped him get another winner for the Bruins on Sunday.

Marchand scored 4:03 into the extra period after his shot deflected off an opponent's skate, extending Boston's points streak to seven games with a 2-1 victory over the Colorado Avalanche.

Patrice Bergeron left the puck at the top of the right circle for Marchand, who skated into the slot and inadvertently used Matt Calvert's skate to get the puck past goalie Semyon Varlamov.

Marchand extended his franchise record with his 14th career overtime goal.

"We got a lucky bounce, and we'll take it," Marchand said.

John Moore also scored and Jaroslav Halak made 35 saves for the Bruins, who improved to 4-0-3 in their last seven.



Boston Bruins' Brad Marchand celebrates after scoring the winning goal in overtime against the Colorado Avalanche in an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

Boston (31-17-8) moved one point ahead of rival Montreal for third place in the Atlantic Division and trails second-place Toronto by a point.

"It was a needed point

for us," said Halak, who snapped a personal five-game skid. "The standing in our division, it's tight, and it's going to be a race until the end so we need to keep getting points right now."

Nathan MacKinnon scored his 29th goal for Colorado, tying Gabriel Landeskog for the team lead. Varlamov had 33 saves as the Avs lost their seventh in a row (0-3-3) but earned a point with

a third straight overtime loss.

"Tonight's just a wrist shot that happens to hit our guy's foot and changes direction," Colorado coach Jared Bednar said.

Colorado (22-22-11) fell 4-3 in OT at Washington on Thursday before losing by the same score Saturday against the Islanders in New York.

"This is kind of the luck we've been having with it," Bednar said. "We're working on it, we're watching video on it, guys are paying attention to what we're saying and defending hard 3-on-3."

Bednar called his team's three-game points streak "a huge step forward," but the sentiment differed inside the Avs' locker room.

"It's just not good enough," Varlamov said. "We've got to find a way to win in overtime."

The Avalanche sit four points out of the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference. □

**RANDY CARLYLE**

Continued from Page 18

The Ducks were second in the Pacific Division on Dec. 18 after winning 11 of 13, but they have gone 2-15-4 since.

Saturday's 6-2 loss at Philadelphia capped a five-game trip where the Ducks had been outscored 29-7, including 14-0 in the first period.

Murray said he approached ownership following a 4-1 loss at Montreal on Feb. 5 that he was considering making a change. Murray was scouting in Europe, but returned and fired Carlyle during a Sunday morning meeting at the Honda Center.

"Bob's obviously going to need to implement his vision of what he envisions our team doing," Ducks captain Ryan Getzlaf said following Sunday's practice. "We had a good practice, lots of talking and lots trying to understand exactly what's going on and what he wants to see out of us."

Amid a 12-game losing

streak last month, Murray issued a statement saying he wasn't considering a coaching change and instead was focusing on the roster.

Murray shook up the roster with a couple of trades that led to two straight wins, but another losing streak followed.

"It's a combination of everything but what bothered me the most was the lack of emotion," Murray said. "We've always pushed back. We never accept and they were accepting and that is unacceptable. We have to change that."

Ducks owners Henry and Susan Samueli sent an email to season-ticket holders saying they have supported Murray throughout the entire process.

Murray has been with Anaheim since 2005 and has been the general manager since 2008. He signed a two-year extension in December and is under contract through the 2021-22 season.

Murray became the fifth person in NHL history to both



In a Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 file photo, Anaheim Ducks coach Randy Carlyle, center, watches during the third period of the team's NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

play and serve 1,000 games as a GM, but this is the first time he will be behind the bench as a coach. Murray said it wasn't fair to name anyone else as the interim coach. He is also taking over the coaching reigns with two weeks remaining until the trade deadline on Feb. 25, which should allow some time to get a better gage on the roster.

"It's my job. We have problems here and it has to

be fixed," Murray said. "It's more problematic than I thought, and the only way it was fair to anyone was coming down here and finding out everything going on."

Anaheim's next three games are at home, beginning Wednesday against Vancouver. Defenseman Cam Fowler said he hopes the change can shake the Ducks into making a late run. "Sometimes all you

need is a fresh start to get some good mojo," he said. "We felt like we were just kind of stuck in neutral and as hard as we were trying to work to get things going better we just couldn't find a way to do it."

Dallas Eakins, who is the coach of the Ducks' AHL affiliate in San Diego, would be among the favorites to be considered for the job going into next season. Eakins is in his fourth season in San Diego. He does have NHL coaching experience with less than two seasons in Edmonton.

The Ducks made the playoffs in seven of Carlyle's eight full seasons with the team, going 46-37 in the postseason. They were swept out of the first round last season.

Carlyle previously coached the Toronto Maple Leafs. He went 384-256-96 in 736 games with Anaheim. He is the only person in NHL history with over 1,000 games played and 900 or more games coached. His career mark behind the bench is 475-334-115. □



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## Whittaker pulls out with injury, Adesanya wins at UFC 234

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — Robert Whittaker provided most of the early drama at UFC 234 in Australia and Israel Adesanya quite a lot at the end.

About eight hours before their scheduled fight, Australia's UFC middleweight champion Whittaker withdrew from his championship defense against Kelvin Gastelum because of a serious abdominal injury and subsequent emergency surgery due to a perforated hernia.

That moved up the highly anticipated No. 1 contender match between rising New Zealand star Adesanya and Brazilian veteran Anderson Silva (34-9) to the main event on the sold-out Rod Laver Arena card.

In an evenly matched fight over the first two rounds, Adesanya landed the first blow — an outside kick to Silva's leg — then followed it up with a kick to his opponent's right thigh, but Silva fought back with two shots to Adesanya's chin. Despite the late flurry, Adesanya appeared to have marginally taken the first round.

Silva appeared to have won the second round, and chants for the Brazilian went up in the crowd to start the third and final round. But Adesanya, now 16-0, dominated the third for a unanimous decision, 29-28, 30-27, 30-27 as per the judges' cards.

"This is like, for a kid, if I played basketball against Michael Jordan... this is it for me," Adesanya said. "Anderson, thank you. You've been doing this for a long time my friend, I appreciate you."

After the fight, Silva was

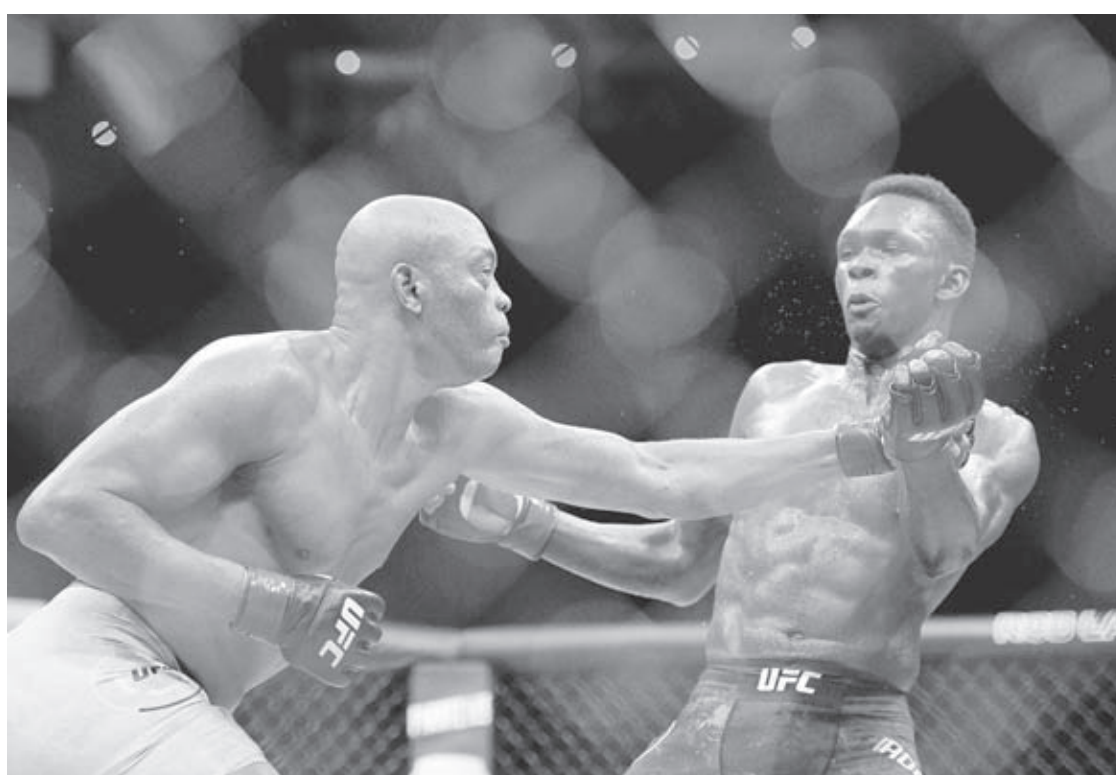
heard saying to Adesanya: "I pass the baton onto you." "I'm very happy, guys. Thank you God, for giving me one more chance to come here and do my best. I love my job," Silva said at ringside during the presentations.

The Nigerian-born Adesanya, 29, is considered one of the UFC's most high-profile title contenders, with a spectacular fighting style that reminds many of the 43-year-old Silva in his prime.

Also elevated on the card was the lightweight bout between American Lando Vannata and Brazilian Marcos Mariano, which Vannata won by submission near the end of the first round. Vannata improved to 10-3, two by no contest, while Mariano fell to 6-5.

UFC president Dana White said the 28-year-old New Zealand-born Whittaker, who has a record of 20-4, became ill Saturday night and complained of pain in his abdomen before being diagnosed at a hospital with a hernia. White said Whittaker could have died if he went into the ring with such an injury.

In a later statement, UFC said Whittaker had undergone emergency surgery due to a "severe abdominal injury." Whittaker's manager Titus Day said Whittaker first reported some issues around 6 p.m. on Saturday. "Rob said he was a bit bloated and a little bit tired which is not uncommon when you are going through the process they are going through, reloading and putting some food back in your body," Day told Australian Associated



Nigeria's Israel Adesanya, right, and Brazil's Anderson Silva fight during their middleweight bout at the UFC 234 event in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Press.

"Then about 10 o'clock we got a call from (Whittaker's wife) Sofia saying he's got some bad stomach cramps and he's in quite a lot of pain and can't sleep ... it got to the stage at about three in the morning where he was taken to hospital." Gastelum tweeted with "much sorrow" that the fight was off.

"I wish @robwhittakermma a speedy recovery champ! Get well soon!"

Tickets for the 15,000-seat arena sold out in eight minutes. UFC has offered full refunds due to the cancellation of the main bout.

It marks the second time Whittaker has been forced to withdraw from a scheduled title fight in Australia. Injuries kept him from fighting Luke Rockhold at UFC 221 in Perth last year.

Earlier this week, White had

said the winners of the Whittaker-Gastelum and Adesanya-Silva fights would meet later this year. □

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# Retailers are shopping for ways to get rid of checkout lines

By **MICHAEL LIETKE** and **JOSEPH PISANI**  
AP Business Writers

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Get ready to say good riddance to the checkout line.

A year after Amazon opened its first cashier-less store, startups and retailers are racing to get similar technology in stores throughout the world, letting shoppers buy groceries without waiting in line.

If they work, cashier-less stores will not only save time but maybe money too, for both cost-cutting merchants and customers whose shopping habits are dissected.

From cameras and sensors, the stores will know when shoppers pick up a product and put it down, and can send them a discount to tempt them to buy it. Merchants will be able to create more space for merchandise, better track when shelves need replenishing and draw more business from the hordes of customers who detest long lines.

But the monitoring system underlying cashier-less technology is bound to raise new privacy issues and worries about customer data falling into the wrong hands, especially if stores deploy facial recognition software in the omnipresent cameras watching shoppers.

"It could be scary, and it



This Nov. 14, 2018, photo shows the Standard Cognition cashier-less store on Market Street in San Francisco. Get ready to say good riddance to the checkout line.

Associated Press

could be creepy," says Peter Trepp, CEO of FaceFirst, a Los Angeles company that so far has only sold its facial recognition tools to retailers trying to identify shoplifters and other criminals. "But if it's used to give

sensors on the ceiling track what's taken so their credit or debit cards are automatically charged when they leave. Shoppers will know how long it took to shop, since Amazon sends an alert with their shopping

stores to come up with a number. Based on their observations of traffic patterns, they estimated about 400 to 700 customers per day will visit each of the roughly 2,000-square-foot Amazon Go stores, generating sales of \$1.1 million to \$2 million annually, assuming an average purchase of \$10. At the high end of that range, it works out to twice the sales of a typical U.S. convenience store, RBC calculated.

Several startups are pitching technology to retailers who want to create Amazon Go-like stores of their own. One of the companies, called AiFi, says it has signed deals with the Carrefour chain in France and Zabka convenience stores in Poland. Others, including Zippin, Grabandgo, Trigo Vision and Inokyo, say they are negotiating deals with retailers in the U.S. and other parts of the world, although none are ready to identify them yet.

"Once a few big retail chains begin to deploy this technology, it's going to snowball and we will see more and more of them doing it," says Michael Suswal, co-founder of Standard Cognition, another cashier-less technology startup.

So far, companies working on the technology are finding ways to do without facial recognition. Their systems rely on cameras for identifying objects rather than people. Like Amazon,

they rely on tailored smartphone apps to identify who is entering the store and to process the sale for whatever products are taken.

Both Standard Cognition and Zippin opened small stores in San Francisco last year that have held invitation-only demonstrations or been open for limited hours with a scant selection of merchandise.

"I like the idea of being able to come into a store, grab what you want and just walk out," says Tomonori Nishimura, a 30-year-old researcher for Fujitsu Laboratories after getting a bag of Funyuns at Standard's small store in San Francisco recently.

Amazon appears the most likely to make cashier-less stores a more common sight, partly because it can afford to open stores with the technology already built into them, given its current market value of about \$800 billion — ranking among the most valuable companies in the world.

But the country's biggest retailers are also trying to speed up the shopping process. Sam's Club, the warehouse-style club owned by Walmart, opened a test store in Dallas that has no cashiers. Instead, shoppers use their smartphones to scan products and pay. 7-Eleven is testing something similar at 14 stores in Dallas.

"Waiting in line is torture," says 7-Eleven's Gurmeet Singh, the company's chief digital officer and chief information officer.

Though, he added, there are no plans to get rid of cashiers. He wants people to have a choice on how they pay.

As cashier-less stores become more common, there will likely be more political pressure to ensure they still offer an option to pay by cash to avoid discriminating against lower-income consumers without bank accounts and credit cards. In anticipation of that likelihood, Standard Cognition already has set up a separate kiosk for all-cash purchases in its test store. □



In this Jan. 22, 2018, file photo a shopper scans an Amazon Go app on a cellphone while entering an Amazon Go store in Seattle.

Associated Press

people a 30 percent coupon on something they want that is going to be a nice benefit. That kind of experience will help people embrace the technology."

Amazon has a head start in the U.S., opening 10 convenience stores in three cities: Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle. The stores sell salads and sandwiches for lunch, everyday items like toilet paper and Advil, and groceries such as Cheerios and raw ground beef.

Shoppers scan an app to enter the Amazon Go store, grab what they want and walk out. Cameras and

time.

"It was just a phenomenal experience," said Tom Hadfield, who bought a Coke Zero in a minute and five seconds at one of the Go stores in San Francisco while visiting the city recently. Hadfield, who runs a technology startup in Austin, Texas, said it reminded him of the first time he rode an Uber.

"You just know it's going to be the future," he said.

Amazon doesn't say how much money its cashier-less stores make. But analysts from RBC Capital Markets recently visited Amazon Go's two San Francisco

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# U.S. refiner Citgo emerges as key to Venezuela's power battle

By ALEXANDRA OLSON

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The U.S. and dozens of other countries may have declared that Nicolas Maduro is no longer the legitimate president of Venezuela, but that has not loosened his grip on power. Maduro still controls the military, despite scattered defections. He has the loyalty of the Supreme Court. And he has rendered the opposition-controlled National Assembly powerless by setting up a rival constitutional assembly. But Maduro stands to lose one crucial lever of power: Houston-based refining company Citgo, a wholly owned subsidiary of Venezuelan state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA, known by its acronym PDVSA.

Americans know Citgo for its familiar red triangle logo at its more than 5,000 branded gas stations and the iconic sign visible from Fenway Park in Boston. Venezuelans know it as one of their collapsing economy's last lifelines.

The Trump administration is moving to help transfer its control to Juan Guaido, the National Assembly leader recognized by the U.S. and other countries as Venezuela's legitimate president. Such a feat would give Guaido a slice of de facto power.

"It's more than symbolic," said William Burke-White, a professor of international law at the University of Pennsylvania who served in the State Department under the Obama Administration. "An alternative power is starting to emerge. This is about creating a world where there is another entity contesting every point of authority that Maduro has." Here's a look Citgo's critical role in Venezuela's power struggle.

## WHY IS CITGO SUCH A VALUABLE ASSET FOR VENEZUELA?

U.S. refiners like Citgo are among the few customers paying cash for Venezuelan crude. Oil shipments to Venezuela's other big cus-

tomers, China and Russia, are usually taken as repayment for billions of dollars in debt. So the cash from Citgo has become a lifeline over the past two years as Venezuela's oil output has plummeted amid chronic underinvestment in PDVSA and oil prices have dropped from historic highs.

Until U.S. sanctions prohibited, Citgo also repatriated profits to PDVSA. It also sent back fuel that Venezuela needs because of its deteriorating refining capabilities, as well as diluents that PDVSA needs to mix with Venezuela's heaviest crude oil before it can be exported. But sanctions have prohibited those exports. Like other refiners, Citgo can now only import Venezuelan crude oil if it makes payments into blocked bank accounts, which almost certainly means the PDVSA will halt shipments to the U.S.

Maduro's government also mortgaged Citgo to raise cash. Almost 50 percent of the company's shares were put up as collateral for a \$1.5 billion loan from the Russian state-controlled oil company Rosneft. The rest of the shares are collateral for PDVSA's 2020 bond, the only bond Venezuela has continued to make payments on in a desperate effort to hang on to Citgo.

## HOW DO U.S. SANCTIONS AFFECT CITGO?

Citgo itself has become a little less dependent on PDVSA in one crucial way. Like other PDVSA customers, the refiner has been forced in recent months to look for alternative sources of crude because of Venezuela's dramatic production decline, said Jennifer Rowland, an equity research analyst for Edward Jones who focuses on the energy sector.

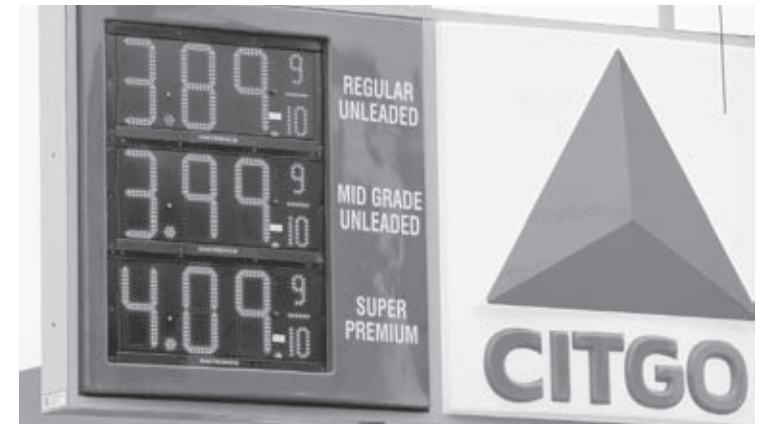
Still, the company faces a scramble to replace a complete loss of Venezuelan supply. Citgo had been processing up to 200,000 barrels a day of Venezuelan crude before

the sanctions, or about 26 percent of the company's total 749,000-barrel-a-day capacity. Most of the Venezuelan oil was processed at its Lake Charles refinery in Louisiana, which is specially equipped to handle the high-density, high-sulfur crude that Venezuela exports. That type of crude oil is in short supply because of production cuts in other countries like Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

Citgo itself is not a target of the sanctions. The Trump administration carved out an exemption for the PDVSA subsidiary so Americans can continue doing business with it.

## CAN GUAIDO PULL OFF A LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT CITGO?

Guaido has said he will soon name a new board of



In this Feb. 24, 2012 file photo, gas prices are posted at the Citgo gas station in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

directors for Citgo. Legally, there may be little stopping him from doing so. There is some precedent, as when the U.S. and other countries recognized a coalition of rebel groups in Libya as the official government in 2011 when Moammar Gadhafi still controlled Tripoli. The decision gave the rebel group the right to take control of Libyan assets overseas.

"International law allows this to happen," Burke-White said.

Implementing the change, however, involves logistical hurdles. Pedro Burelli, a U.S.-based consultant who was a PDVSA executive board member until 1998, said Guaido must first appoint new PDVSA leaders, who would then oversee the shareholder-voting process of selecting a Citgo board. But that new PDVSA leadership would not have real access to the bureaucracy and operations of the parent company, which Maduro controls. □

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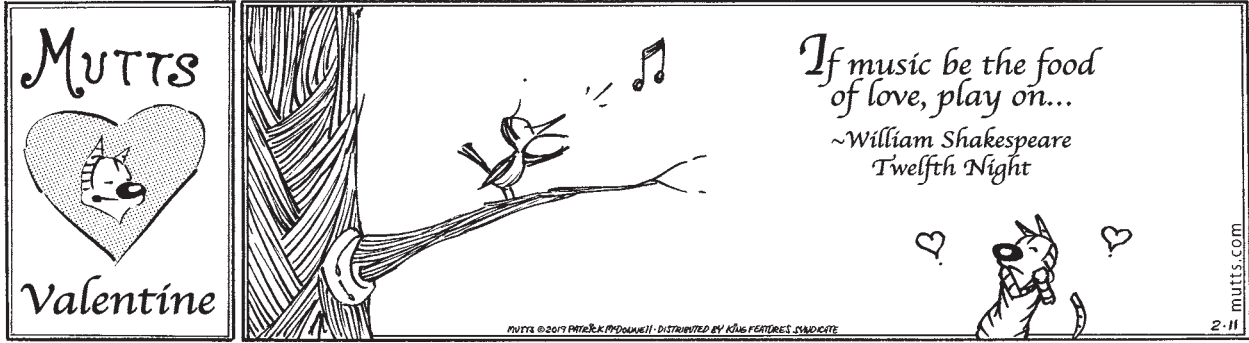
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Mutts



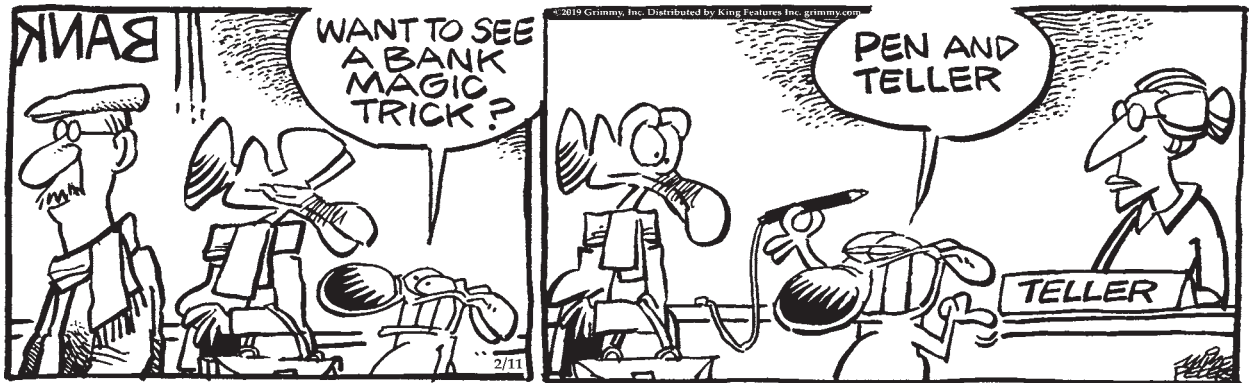
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3				1		2	
			6			5	8
		6	8	7		4	
2					6	8	7
		8	3		4	2	
	1	4	2				6
	7			4	2	5	
9	5				1		
	4			3			1

Difficulty Level ★

2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

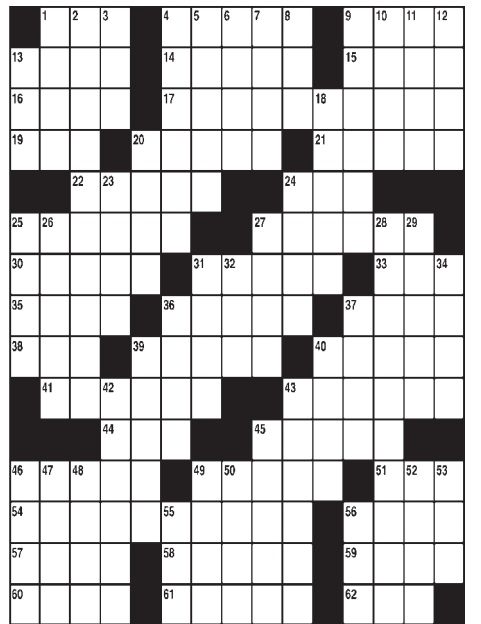
5	3	4	9	8	1	2	7	6
8	7	1	6	4	2	5	9	3
9	2	6	7	5	3	8	1	4
2	9	8	1	7	6	4	3	5
4	1	7	2	3	5	6	8	9
6	5	3	4	9	8	7	2	1
3	6	9	5	2	7	1	4	8
7	4	5	8	1	9	3	6	2
1	8	2	3	6	4	9	5	7

ACROSS

- 1 Important family member  
4 Sneezing, Happy or Grumpy  
9 Rip-off scheme  
13 Relocate  
14 Mistake  
15 Drifter  
16 Biblical book  
17 Imaginary; not factual  
19 WWII president  
20 Walkways  
21 Relaxes  
22 Criticizes harshly  
24 Texter's giggle  
25 Notorious AI  
27 Like a forest  
30 Skillful  
31 Ice cream portion  
33 By way of  
35 Brooches  
36 Piece of silverware  
37 Cry  
38 Senator Cruz  
39 Black suit  
40 Jessica or Hope  
41 Loan shark  
43 Way of doing things  
44 Disabled car's need  
45 Rica  
46 Flower stalks  
49 Baseball or rugby  
51 Org. for Rockets & Raptors  
54 Golfers' tops  
56 West or Sandler  
57 Weapons  
58 Thrill  
59 Lunch spot  
60 Trial run  
61 Regal  
62 Peculiar

DOWN

- 1 Frame of mind  
2 Blows one's budget  
3 Blanc or Brooks  
4 Malign  
5 Judge's orders  
6 Part of the foot  
7 Goes bad  
8 When to say "TGIF": abbr.  
9 Protective plate  
10 Dove sounds  
11 Lie next to  
12 Velvety green ground cover  
13 Monogram for actor Fox  
18 Group of Brownies  
20 Breathe heavily  
23 off; severs  
24 Crazy as a  
25 Crunch or Kangaroo: abbr.  
26 "Bye, Pierre!"  
27 Courts  
28 Fair; impartial  
29 San \_\_, CA  
31 on; incite  
32 Corn on the  
34 Ridiculed  
36 Murdered  
37 60-\_\_ light bulb  
39 Grouchy  
40 In case



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/11/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

SLIP	FORAY	OMIT
CODE	OPINE	RACE
OPEN	RECONCILED	
TEA	SURE	HEEDS
LLAMA	SAN	
ALIENS	SNITCH	
LOSES	ASWAN	OAT
POTS	SCRAP	TRUE
SKI	BETSY	PORTS
SCALES	MINUET	
GEM	POLYP	
ASPEN	MIRE	TAT
BOUNDARIES	TIDE	
LILT	DANCE	OOZE
ELLS	STEEL	ONES

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2/11/19

- 42 Maximum  
43 Tidbit  
45 Terra-\_\_; roof tile material  
46 Argument  
47 off; left suddenly  
48 Trees with grayish bark  
49 Fodder storage tower  
50 Minister's advice  
52 Never in need of shampoo  
53 Toulouse friend  
55 That woman  
56 Hubhub



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11 th Floor 17 week remain  
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29 weeks remain

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24 weeks remain

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Studio Wk 11  
26 weeks remain \$8000

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Marella Explorer

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# Pea-sized pill delivers insulin shot from inside the stomach

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists figured out how to hide a shot inside a pea-sized pill — creating a swallowable gadget, inspired by a tortoise shell, that can inject medicines like insulin from inside the stomach. Patients usually prefer oral treatment, and comply with it better, but many compounds, including insulin for diabetes, can't survive the harsh trip through the digestive system. The new invention, reported Thursday by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology-led research team, has been tested only in animals so far. But if it pans out, it might offer a work-around to make not just insulin but a variety of usually injected medicines a little easier to take. "It's like a miniaturized rocket launcher" for insulin, said Willem Mulder of Mount Sinai's Translational and Molecular Imaging Institute, who wasn't involved in the new research. Scientists have spent decades trying to develop oral insulin and replace at least some of the daily shots that many people with diabetes require. Attempts include



This undated photo provided by researchers in February 2019 shows the components of swallowable self-righting device which can inject drugs from inside the stomach.

Associated Press

ways to protect insulin from digestive breakdown and then help it be absorbed through the intestine into the bloodstream. So far none has reached the market, although some closely watched candidates are being tested. An ingestible injection could bypass the hazards of that journey — letting insulin absorb through the wall of the stomach, said Dr. Giovanni Traverso, a

gastroenterologist at Boston's Brigham & Women's Hospital and a senior author of the study. "The way this works is it travels down the esophagus in seconds, it's in the stomach within a few minutes, and then you get the drug," said Traverso, who worked with a team from the lab of MIT inventor Robert Langer and insulin maker Novo Nordisk. The first challenge: How to make sure the device lands

where it can poke into the right spot, even if someone's moving around. Researchers looked to nature for ideas. A certain tortoise, the leopard tortoise from Africa, can right itself if flipped onto its back thanks to the steep curve of its shell. Researchers crafted a miniature capsule with a similar shape and a weighted bottom, so that once it reaches the stomach it automati-

cally rolls in the right direction to latch on, Traverso explained. Next the team designed a micro-injector, like a needle only made of dried insulin compressed into a sharp point. To power it, researchers bound a tiny spring to a hardened sugar disk. Stomach acid gradually dissolves the sugar until the spring pops, shooting the insulin into the stomach wall. In pigs, the ingestible injection lowered blood sugar to levels comparable to standard shots, according to the study published Thursday in the journal *Science*. Once the insulin was absorbed, the capsule, made of stainless steel and a biodegradable material, floated free and was excreted. "It's a very clever idea, that is meant to solve a very long-standing problem," said University of Pittsburgh chemical engineering chairman Steven Little, who also wasn't part of the research. Because the gadget passes through, "the only thing administered to the body is this little injector." □



In this Oct. 9, 2018 file photo, an embryo receives a small dose of Cas9 protein and PCSK9 sgRNA in a sperm injection microscope in a laboratory in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province, during work by scientist He Jiankui's team

Associated Press

## Stanford probes faculty ties to China gene-edited baby work

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
AP Chief Medical Writer

Stanford University has started a review of interactions that some faculty members had with He Jiankui, the Chinese scientist who claims to have helped make gene-edited babies. Several Stanford professors have said they knew or strongly suspected He wanted to try gene editing on embryos intended for pregnancy. The work has been widely criticized since November, when He revealed the births of twins whose DNA he said he altered to try to help them resist possible future infection with the AIDS virus. Most scientists think gene editing for reproductive

purposes is too risky to be tried yet because of the danger of harming other genes and because the DNA changes may be passed to future generations. He did postdoctoral research at Stanford and began the gene editing project after returning to his homeland for a job at Southern University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen. Several Stanford professors including He's former adviser, Stephen Quake; bioethicist Dr. William Hurlbut and genetics expert Dr. Matthew Porteus have said they were in contact with He over the last year. Hurlbut and Porteus said they disapproved of and

discouraged any such experiment. Quake said he only discussed the matter in broad, general terms with He. After He's work was revealed, Rice University in Houston announced an investigation into interactions between He and his former adviser at that school, Michael Deem. On Thursday, Stanford spokesman E.J. Miranda said in an email that Stanford is reviewing "the circumstances around Dr. He's interactions with researchers at the university." Miranda said he had no additional information on questions about who would do the review, what would be examined and how long it would take. □



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## Globe means more to Oh after some time to reflect

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

Now that she's had a few weeks to reflect on her experience as a Golden Globes host and winner, actress Sandra Oh realizes even more what it meant to Koreans and immigrants. At a news conference on Saturday, the "Killing Eve" star said she has had several young people approach her to say how much the moment meant to them. Oh, who co-hosted the Globes with Andy Samberg, thanked her parents in Korean when she won best actress for the BBC America series.

"The significance of these wins are not lost on me at all," Oh said. "I didn't want to waste a moment and not be completely there." During the after-parties, "I didn't need one drop of alcohol because I was so high," she said.

Still, remembering how petrified she felt before the show, she said she's not interested in another hosting gig.

Oh turns next to the second season of "Killing Eve," which begins airing on April 7.

BBC America says that during its debut season, "Killing Eve" was the first program in many years where every episode reached a larger audience than the one before.

Season two picks up about 30 seconds after the end of the first season, when the M15 spy that Oh portrayed stabbed Villanelle, the as-

sassin she's been hunting down and become obsessed with, in the stomach. Mini-spoiler alert: Villanelle, played by Jodie Comer, survives.

Actress Fiona Shaw, the veteran actress who portrays the British spy chief Carolyn Martens, said she believes one reason the series took off in its first season is because it captured the unsettled feeling that many people have of not knowing what will come next. The actors feel the same thing before getting their scripts.

Besides accolades and ratings, people involved with the show have learned from their families that the show was successful. Emerald Fennell, writer and executive producer, said her mother would text her late at night with suggestions on how the show could kill people.

"I feel like my dad is watching it as a fan, not just because I'm in it," Comer said. There's also a higher caliber of potential victims (the series seems to take glee in killing off male characters). "We now have people that want to be part of the show and want to be killed," Comer said.

Fennell is the new top writer and producer behind the show, replacing predecessor Phoebe Waller-Bridge. "It's terrifying," Fennell said. "It's lucky that I came on board before (the first season) came out. Otherwise, it might have been hiding-under-the-bed time for me." □



Sandra Oh participates in the "Killing Eve" panel during the BBC America presentation at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour at The Langham Huntington on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

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# 'The Lego Movie 2' opens No. 1 but everything is not awesome

By JAKE COYLE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part" was easily the top ticket-seller in theaters over the weekend, but the film's \$35 million opening failed to stack up to its expected haul, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The animated sequel had been forecast to draw around \$50 million. Instead, it debuted with half the \$69 million the 2014 original did, despite good reviews and an A-minus CinemaScore. With about a \$100 million budget, Warner Bros.' "The Lego Movie 2" had been pegged as a dependable, star-studded franchise release sure to kick-start a moribund box office. But after record ticket sales last year, Hollywood's 2019 has gotten off to such a bad beginning that the movie's tagline of "Everything is not awesome" is looking more like accurate industry analysis.

"The expectations were certainly much higher for 'The Lego Movie 2' considering the success of the first installment," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior me-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows the characters Emmet, left, and Rex Dangervest, center, both voiced by Chris Pratt, in a scene from "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part." Associated Press

dia analyst for Comscore. "We were all hoping that this would be the weekend that got the momentum of the box office going in the right direction. We're still waiting."

Every weekend this year has been down from the same weekend a year ago. That's a streak sure to continue. Next weekend, the new releases include "Happy Death Day 2U" and "Alita: Battle Angel." What opened the same week-

end last year? "Black Panther."

"Momentum is everything at the box office," Dergarabedian said. "And we've sort of lost that."

Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett, Will Ferrell and others reprise their voice roles in "The Lego Movie 2," while Tiffany Haddish and Maya Rudolph join the cast. Mike Mitchell directs the movie written by original writer-directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller.

Oversaturation could be to blame. Since the 2014 original, which grossed \$469 million worldwide, Warner Bros. released two spinoffs: "The Lego Batman Movie" in 2017 and "The Lego Ninjago Movie" later the same year. Distribution executives for Warner Bros. declined to comment on the weekend's results.

Until now, 2019's sluggish box office was partly blamed on lack of quality releases, with only a hand-

ful of highly promoted films from major studios. This weekend saw a relatively robust slate of releases, including Taraji P. Henson's "What Men Want" and the Liam Neeson thriller "Cold Pursuit." Both did solid if not spectacular business.

Paramount's "What Men Want," a loose remake of the 2000 Mel Gibson comedy, debuted with \$19 million. Henson plays a sports agent with the ability to hear men's thoughts in Adam Shankman's film, a kind of gender flip from the original. The film got poor reviews (47 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), but audiences gave it an A-minus CinemaScore.

Lionsgate's "Cold Pursuit" debuted with \$10.8 million, a result in line with expectations despite the controversy that surrounded its star in the week leading up to release. Neeson drew heavy criticism after he acknowledged in an interview published last Monday that he wanted to kill a random black person when a close friend told him she had been raped by a black man. □

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**THE LEGO MOVIE 2**  
CHRIS PRATT | ELIZABETH BANKS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THU: 5:10 | 7:30 • FRI: 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00  
SAT: 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00 • SUN: 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30  
CXC  
MON-THU: 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50  
FRI: 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:10  
SAT: 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:10  
SUN: 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50  
SPANISH  
SAT-SUN: 1:00

**WHAT MEN WANT**  
TARAJI P. HENSON | WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY  
MON-THU & SUN: 8:40 • FRI-SAT: 8:40 | 11:10  
VIP  
MON-THU: 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10  
FRI: 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40  
SAT: 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40  
SUN: 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10

**GLASS**  
BRUCE WILLIS | SAMUEL L. JACKSON  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-SUN: 3:45 | 6:25 | 9:05  
PG-13

**BON BINI HOLLAND 2**  
JANDINO ASPORAAT | LILIANA DE VRIES  
DUTCH  
VIP  
MON-THU: 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30  
FRI: 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35  
SAT: 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35  
SUN: 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30  
PG-13

**MISS BALA**  
GINA RODRIGUEZ | ANTHONY MACKIE  
MON-FRI: 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20  
SAT-SUN: 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20  
PG-13

**the upside**  
BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-FRI: 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10  
SAT-SUN: 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10  
PG-13

**KIP KING**  
LOUIS ASHBORNE SERKIS | PATRICK STEWART  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-FRI: 3:45 | 6:10  
SAT-SUN: 1:25 | 3:45 | 6:10  
PG

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## 'This Is Us' star Milo Ventimiglia honored at Harvard



In this Sept. 25, 2018 file photo, Milo Ventimiglia arrives at a season three premiere screening of "This Is Us" in Los Angeles. Associated Press

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)** — "This Is Us" actor Milo Ventimiglia was honored Friday as Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pud-

ding Theatricals at Farkas Hall in Cambridge.

The Emmy-nominated actor received the award after a roast from Elizabeth

Mann and Mariana Sanchez Medina of the Hasty Pudding Theatrics, who poked fun at some of his B-list acting roles and his status as a sex symbol.

"Milo was named the world's sexiest vegetarian alive by PETA, even though everyone sees you as a piece of meat," the two Harvard undergrads quipped.

Before being able to hold the pudding pot, Ventimiglia had to endure a little extra embarrassment: the Pudding had Ventimiglia sing Fergie smash "Big Girls Don't Cry," (Ventimiglia starred in the music video) and gave a lap dance to one of its members.

Ventimiglia took the teasing in good fun, emphasizing how proud he was to receive the title. □



# Do Bryan Singer allegations hurt 'Bohemian's' Oscar chances?

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Director Bryan Singer hasn't been involved with the Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" for over a year, but with a fresh exposé alleging that he sexually assaulted minors and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts "suspending" his nomination, will he be the film's Oscars Achilles heel?

"Bohemian Rhapsody" has had a lifetime's worth of trials and setbacks on its 10-year journey to the big screen. And yet despite everything working against it — from Singer's surprise firing mid-production for absences and clashes with the cast, to the negative reviews right before its release — it seems to have come out of the fires unscathed. The \$50 million production became a global box-office phenomenon, grossing over \$209 million in North America alone and over \$834 million worldwide to become the most successful musical biopic of all time. It developed into a top awards contender too, winning the best drama and best actor for Rami Malek at the Golden Globes, while also receiving two key Screen Actors Guild nominations, a Producers Guild nod and five Oscar nominations, including best actor and

best picture.

But then on Jan. 23, almost exactly a month before the Oscars and one day after its nominations, The Atlantic magazine published an article in which four men claim they were sexually abused by Singer while underage. Singer has denied the allegations. A representative for Singer declined to comment further for this article.

The next day, the advocacy group GLAAD removed the film from its Media Awards nominees, and four days later, "Bohemian Rhapsody" lost the coveted SAG ensemble award to "Black Panther."

"I think that it would have won SAG ensemble if it hadn't been embroiled in controversy," said Sasha Stone, founder of the blog Awards Daily.

The SAG voting period ended on Jan. 25, two days after The Atlantic article published. As if a precursor to what might happen at the Academy Awards, Malek walked away with his own acting prize.

This week, just days before the British Academy film awards, BAFTA announced that Singer's nomination suspension because the alleged behavior was "completely unacceptable and incompatible" with its values. The film, however, will still compete Sunday for



This Dec. 2, 2013 file photo shows Bryan Singer at the Los Angeles premiere of "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug."

Associated Press

the Outstanding British film award, among others.

Those involved with the film have, in general, opted not to talk about their ousted director. Singer was kept far away from the publicity tour but retained his directing credit and could stand to make \$40 million, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Producer Graham King became the public face of the production along with Malek. And their messaging stayed laser-focused on Freddie Mercury

and doing right by him and the band. How could voters argue with that? Malek, on the day of his Oscar nomination, said that he was "not aware" of the allegations against Singer. He's since presented a more informed stance and said that his "heart goes out to anyone who has to live through anything like what I've heard and what is out there." When pressed, he's has often gone back to the refrain that audiences can take solace in the fact that

Singer was fired.

The Atlantic article didn't exactly light Hollywood on fire, either. Singer is still lined up to direct another movie for a \$10 million payday. And people still like "Bohemian Rhapsody."

"I don't see too many people even upset about the controversy. That Atlantic piece came out after nominations. I still think the movie would be nominated if it had run before. It's not like it contained anything surprising. □

## TV show 'Extra' suspends host to investigate misconduct

**PASADENA, Calif. (AP)** — A.J. Calloway, a host on the syndicated entertainment news show "Extra," was suspended Saturday as his parent company investigates sexual misconduct allegations.

The company said it had investigated prior accusations against Calloway and found no suggestion of workplace misconduct. But he was suspended after Warner Bros. became aware of additional allegations that will be published in an upcoming

article in The Hollywood Reporter.

Calloway's lawyer, Lisa E. Davis, said her client vehemently denies ever assaulting anyone and looks forward to clearing his name. Calloway has been with "Extra" since 2005.

He was arrested following a 2006 incident where a woman, Sil Lai Abrams, accused Calloway of assault. The charges were dismissed. Another publication, the Daily Beast, reported last month about two misconduct allegations

made by women who wanted to remain anonymous. Neither of the January allegations concerned misconduct that took place on the job. Warner Bros. said in a statement Saturday that "to date, we have found nothing to suggest that Mr. Calloway has ever engaged in workplace misconduct."

But with additional allegations made, "we are expanding our ongoing inquiries," the company said. "We take such allegations very seriously and are com-



In this Nov. 13, 2017 file photo, A.J. Calloway attends the 2017 Glamour Women of the Year Awards at Kings Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

mitted to doing everything we can to ensure a safe and inclusive workplace for all of our employees." Davis said that Calloway maintains that the allega-

tions are unsubstantiated and false. "He vehemently denies that he ever assaulted anyone and looks forward to clearing his name," she said. □



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